PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Ulipristal

This information from Lexicomp® explains what you need to know about this medication, including what it's used for, how to take it, its side effects, and when to call your healthcare provider.

### Brand Names: US

Ella

### Brand Names: Canada

Ella

### What is this drug used for?

- It is used to lower the chance of pregnancy after unprotected sex.

### What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?

### For all patients taking this drug:

- If you are allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.
- If you are taking any drugs that may make this drug

not work as well. This includes bosentan, carbamazepine, felbamate, griseofulvin, oxcarbazepine, phenobarbital, phenytoin, rifampin, St. John’s wort, and topiramate. There are many drugs that can do this. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

- If you are pregnant or may be pregnant. Do not take this drug if you are pregnant.

**Children:**

- If the patient is a child who has not started puberty yet.
- If your child has not started having menstrual periods.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take this drug with all of your drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug without checking with your doctor.

## What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- This drug will not end a pregnancy.
- This drug is not for frequent or regular use to prevent pregnancy. If you need to use emergency birth control often, talk with your doctor.
- Do not take this drug more than one time in the same period (menstrual) cycle.
- This drug may not work for all people who use it. Talk with the doctor.
- This drug does not stop the spread of diseases like HIV or hepatitis that are passed through having sex. Do not have any kind of sex without using a latex or polyurethane condom. If you have questions, talk with your doctor.
- Certain health problems could cause this drug to not work as well. Be sure your doctor knows about all of your health problems.
- If you have severe lower stomach pain 3 to 5 weeks after taking this drug, call your doctor right away. Your doctor will need to check for a pregnancy

outside of the uterus (ectopic pregnancy). This is a severe health problem.

- If your period is delayed for more than 7 days, talk with your doctor.
- Birth control pills and other hormone-based birth control may not work as well to prevent pregnancy. If you will be using hormone-based birth control, wait at least 5 days after taking this drug before starting it. Use a barrier form of birth control like a condom with spermicide during this time and until your next menstrual period.
- Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You will need to talk about any risks to your baby.

## What are some side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?

**WARNING/CAUTION:** Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat;

trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.

**What are some other side effects of this drug?**

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

- Feeling dizzy, tired, or weak.
- Upset stomach.
- Stomach pain.
- Headache.
- Period (menstrual) pain.
- Period (menstrual) changes.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-332-1088. You may also report side effects at

https://www.fda.gov/medwatch.

## How is this drug best taken?

Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

- Take with or without food.
- Take this drug within 5 days after unprotected sex.
- If you throw up within 3 hours of taking this drug, call your doctor.

## What do I do if I miss a dose?

- Only 1 dose of this drug is needed. If you miss your dose, take it as soon as you think about it.

## How do I store and/or throw out this drug?

- Store at room temperature in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Store in the original container to protect from light.
- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.

## General drug facts

- If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.
- Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else’s drugs.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. Check with your pharmacist. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

## Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer

This generalized information is a limited summary of diagnosis, treatment, and/or medication information. It is not meant to be comprehensive and should be used as a tool to help the user understand and/or assess potential diagnostic and treatment options. It does NOT

include all information about conditions, treatments, medications, side effects, or risks that may apply to a specific patient. It is not intended to be medical advice or a substitute for the medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment of a health care provider based on the health care provider's examination and assessment of a patient's specific and unique circumstances. Patients must speak with a health care provider for complete information about their health, medical questions, and treatment options, including any risks or benefits regarding use of medications. This information does not endorse any treatments or medications as safe, effective, or approved for treating a specific patient. UpToDate, Inc. and its affiliates disclaim any warranty or liability relating to this information or the use thereof. The use of this information is governed by the Terms of Use, available at https://www.wolterskluwer.com/en/know/clinical-effectiveness-terms.

**Last Reviewed Date**

2021-07-19

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If you have any questions, contact a member of your care team directly. If you're a patient at MSK and you need to reach a provider after 5 p.m., during the weekend, or on a holiday, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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Ulipristal - Last updated on December 12, 2022
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