



Vismodegib

(vis'' moe deg' ib)

URL of this page: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginfo/meds/a612010.html>

IMPORTANT WARNING:

For all patients:

Vismodegib should not be taken by women who are pregnant or who may become pregnant. There is a risk that vismodegib will cause loss of the pregnancy or will cause the baby to be born with birth defects (physical problems that are present at birth).

Your doctor or pharmacist will give you the manufacturer's patient information sheet (Medication Guide) when you begin treatment with vismodegib and each time you refill your prescription. Read the information carefully and ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions. You can also visit the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) website (<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm085729.htm>) or visit the manufacturer's web site to obtain the Medication Guide.

Do not donate blood while you are taking vismodegib and for at least 7 months after your treatment.

Do not share vismodegib with anyone else, even someone who has the same symptoms you have.

Talk to your doctor about the risk(s) of taking vismodegib.

For female patients:

If you can become pregnant, you will need to avoid becoming pregnant during your treatment with vismodegib. You must have a negative pregnancy test within 1 week of the start of your treatment. You must use acceptable forms of birth control during your treatment and for at least 7 months after your treatment is completed. Your doctor will tell you which forms of birth control are acceptable.

If you think you are pregnant, you miss a menstrual period, or you have sex without using birth control while taking vismodegib or within 7 months after your treatment, call your doctor immediately.

For male patients:

You must use a condom with a spermicide every time you have sexual contact with a female who is pregnant or able to become pregnant while you are taking vismodegib and for 2 months after your treatment. Tell your doctor immediately if you have had unprotected sex with a woman who can become pregnant or if you think for any reason that your partner is pregnant.

Why is this medication prescribed?

Vismodegib is used to treat basal cell carcinoma (a type of skin cancer) in people with cancer that has spread to other parts of the body. Vismodegib is also used to treat basal cell carcinoma that cannot be treated with surgery

or radiation or has come back after surgery. Vismodegib is in a class of medications called hedgehog pathway inhibitors. It works by blocking the action of a protein that signals cancer cells to multiply. This helps stop or slow the spread of cancer cells and may help shrink tumors.

How should this medicine be used?

Vismodegib comes as a capsule to take by mouth. It is usually taken once a day with or without food. To help you remember to take vismodegib, take it at around the same time every day. Follow the directions on your prescription label carefully, and ask your doctor or pharmacist to explain any part you do not understand. Take vismodegib exactly as directed. Do not take more or less of it or take it more often than prescribed by your doctor.

Swallow the capsules whole; do not split, chew, or crush them.

Other uses for this medicine

This medication may be prescribed for other uses; ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.

What special precautions should I follow?

Before taking vismodegib,

- tell your doctor and pharmacist if you are allergic to vismodegib, any other medications, or any of the ingredients in vismodegib capsules. Ask your pharmacist or check the Medication Guide for a list of the ingredients.
- tell your doctor and pharmacist what prescription and nonprescription medications, vitamins, nutritional supplements, and herbal products you are taking or plan to take. Be sure to mention any of the following: antacids; certain antibiotics such as azithromycin (Z-Pak, Zithromax), clarithromycin (Biaxin, in Prevpac), and erythromycin (E.E.S., Eryc, Ery-Tab, Erythrocin, PCE); a medication for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as cimetidine (Tagamet), famotidine (Pepcid), and ranitidine (Zantac); and proton-pump inhibitors such as dexlansoprazole (Dexilant), lansoprazole (Prevacid, in Prevpac), omeprazole (Prilosec, Zegerid), pantoprazole (Protonix), and rabeprazole (AcipHex). Your doctor may need to change the doses of your medications or monitor you carefully for side effects. Many other medications may also interact with vismodegib, so be sure to tell your doctor about all the medications you are taking, even those that do not appear on this list.
- do not breast-feed while you are taking vismodegib.

What special dietary instructions should I follow?

Unless your doctor tells you otherwise, continue your normal diet.

What should I do if I forget a dose?

Skip the missed dose and continue your regular dosing schedule. Do not take a double dose to make up for a missed one.

What side effects can this medication cause?

Vismodegib may cause side effects. Tell your doctor if any of these symptoms are severe or do not go away:

- muscle spasms
- joint pain
- tiredness

- hair loss
- change in how things taste or loss of taste
- decreased appetite
- weight loss
- nausea
- vomiting
- diarrhea
- constipation
- missed menstrual periods

Vismodegib may cause other side effects. Call your doctor if you have any unusual problems while taking this medication.

If you experience a serious side effect, you or your doctor may send a report to the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) MedWatch Adverse Event Reporting program online [at <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch>] or by phone [1-800-332-1088].

What storage conditions are needed for this medicine?

Keep this medication in the container it came in, tightly closed, and out of reach of children. Store it at room temperature and away from excess heat and moisture (not in the bathroom). Throw away any medication that is outdated or no longer needed. Talk to your pharmacist about the proper disposal of your medication.

In case of emergency/overdose

In case of overdose, call your local poison control center at 1-800-222-1222. If the victim has collapsed or is not breathing, call local emergency services at 911.

What other information should I know?

Keep all appointments with your doctor.

Ask your pharmacist any questions you have about refilling your prescription.

It is important for you to keep a written list of all of the prescription and nonprescription (over-the-counter) medicines you are taking, as well as any products such as vitamins, minerals, or other dietary supplements. You should bring this list with you each time you visit a doctor or if you are admitted to a hospital. It is also important information to carry with you in case of emergencies.

Brand names

- Erivedge®

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