



Sildenafil (Revatio)

To treat pulmonary arterial hypertension

This handout explains
sildenafil, a medicine used
to treat pulmonary arterial
hypertension (PAH).

What is sildenafil?

Sildenafil is used to treat *pulmonary arterial hypertension* (PAH). PAH is high blood pressure in the vessels of the lungs. Sildenafil can help lessen symptoms and slow the worsening of your symptoms. This will improve your ability to exercise.

Important Notes

- Read the “Medication Guide” that comes with sildenafil before you start taking it and each time you get a refill, as there may be new information.
- To learn more, talk with your health care provider, your pharmacist, or visit www.revatio.com.
- **For men:** Sildenafil contains the same medicine as Viagra, which is used to treat *erectile dysfunction* (the inability to maintain an erection). Do **not** take sildenafil if you are taking Viagra, vardenafil (Levitra), or tadalafil (Cialis).

How should I take sildenafil?

- The usual dose of sildenafil for PAH is a 20 mg tablet taken 3 times a day. Sildenafil also comes in a form that can be injected.
- Take each tablet about 4 to 6 hours apart.
- Take sildenafil at the same times every day, with or without food.
- If you miss a dose, do **not** double your next dose to “make up” for the missed dose. Just take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time.
- If you take too much sildenafil, call your doctor or poison control center, or go to an emergency room.

How should I store the medicine?

Store sildenafil in a closed container at room temperature. Keep it out of reach of children.

What are the side effects?

Common Side Effects

Tell your doctor if any of these side effects bother you or do not go away:

- Nosebleed
- Headache
- Upset stomach
- Flushing (redness or warmth of the face)
- Trouble sleeping

Allergic Reactions

Call your doctor **right away** if you have any of these allergic reactions:

- Itching or hives
- Swelling in your face or hands
- Swelling or tingling in your mouth or throat
- Chest tightness
- Trouble breathing

Other possible side effects from sildenafil are:

Low Blood Pressure

Low blood pressure may cause you to feel faint or dizzy. Lie down if you have these symptoms and let your doctor know if your symptoms get worse. Tell your doctor if you are already taking medicine for your blood pressure.

Shortness of Breath

Tell your doctor if you get more short of breath than usual after you start taking sildenafil.

Vision Problems

Sildenafil may cause a sudden loss of vision in one or both eyes, or a sudden decrease in your eyesight. Call your doctor **right away** if you notice any sudden decrease or loss of vision.

Hearing Problems

If you notice a sudden decrease or loss of hearing, call your doctor **right away**.

Prolonged Erection (in Men)

Call your doctor **right away** if you have an erection that lasts longer than 4 hours.

Warnings: Before You Take Sildenafil

Read this section carefully before you begin taking sildenafil. Talk with your doctor if you have any questions.

- Tell your doctor all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.
- Do **NOT** take sildenafil if you are taking a nitrate medicine. Your blood pressure could drop quickly to an unsafe level. Nitrate medicines include:
 - Medicines that treat chest pain (*angina*)
 - Nitroglycerin in any form
 - Isosorbide mononitrate (Imdur)
 - Isosorbide dinitrate (Isordil)
 - Street drugs called “poppers” (amyl nitrate or nitrite).

If you are not sure if you are taking a nitrate medicine, be sure to ask your doctor or pharmacist.

- Tell your doctor if you are taking:
 - Ritonavir (Norvir) or other medicines used to treat HIV infection
 - Ketoconazole (Nizoral), for fungal infections
 - Bosentan (Tracleer), for PAH
 - An alpha-blocker (for high blood pressure or enlarged prostate), such as terazosin (Hytrin), prazosin (Minipress), doxazosin (Cardura) or tamsulosin (Flomax)

Taking alpha-blockers and sildenafil can cause your blood pressure to drop to unsafe levels.

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have questions or concerns. UWMC clinic staff are also available to help.

Pulmonary Diagnostic Services: 206-598-4967

- Tell your doctor about all your medical conditions, especially if you have:
 - Had a heart attack, stroke, or irregular heartbeats in the last 6 months
 - Chest pain (angina)
 - Pulmonary veno-occlusive disease (PVOD)
 - High or low blood pressure
 - Circulation problems
 - Loss of sight in one or both eyes
 - Liver or kidney problems
 - Any blood cell diseases such as cancer or anemia
 - A stomach ulcer or any bleeding problems
- If you are a woman, tell your doctor if you are:
 - Pregnant
 - Planning to become pregnant
 - Breastfeeding

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