



Linezolid Patient Education Sheet

Pronunciation (li NE zoh lid)

Brand Name – Zyvox

What is this drug used for?

- It is an antibiotic that works by fighting bacteria in the body
- It is used to treat serious bacterial infections of the skin, lungs and bones
- Use of linezolid is usually only used in very hard to treat infections

How is this drug administered?

- Linezolid is administered intravenously over 1 to 2 hours

What are the possible side effects I may experience?

- Many people have no side effects or only have very mild side effects
- Linezolid has MANY serious drug interactions. Make sure your doctor and pharmacist are aware of all the medications that you are taking.
- Most common side effects include:
 - Diarrhea
 - Nausea/vomiting
 - Headache
- Call your doctor at once if you have a serious side effect such as:
 - signs of an allergic reaction such as hives, difficulty breathing, swelling of your face, lips, throat or tongue
 - Any signs of vision impairment or change in vision
 - Signs of high blood pressure such as a bad headache or dizziness, passing out, change in eyesight
 - Signs of low blood sugar such as dizziness, headache, feeling sleepy, weak, shaky, fast heartbeat, confusion, hunger or sweating
 - Seizures
 - Feeling very tired or weak
 - It is common to have diarrhea while taking linezolid. Rarely, a very bad form of diarrhea called C. Diff may occur. Call your doctor right away if you have stomach pain or cramps, very loose or watery stools or bloody stools. Do not try to treat loose stools without first checking with your doctor.
 - A very bad and sometimes deadly health problems called serotonin syndrome can happen. This risk is greater if you take certain drugs for depression, migraines and certain other drugs. Call your doctor right away if you have agitation, changes in balance, confusion, hallucinations, fever, fast or abnormal heartbeat, flushing, muscle twitching or stiffness, seizures, shivering/shaking, sweating a lot, very bad diarrhea, upset stomach or throwing up or a very bad headache.
 - New nerve pain in arms or legs (Burning, numbness, or tingly feeling)

What are some things I need to know or do while I am taking linezolid?

- Have blood checked weekly as ordered



- Make sure that your doctor and pharmacist are aware of all the medications you are currently taking
- **Some foods and drinks like cheese and red wine, when taken with this drug, may cause serious side effects such as sudden high blood pressure. To avoid these problems, read the list of foods to avoid supplied by your infusion pharmacy**
- If you are on high blood pressure or diabetic medications, monitor your blood sugar and blood pressure closely.

How should I store this medication?

- Store at room temperature

*** This information is not specific medical advice and does not replace information you receive from the healthcare provider. You must talk with the healthcare provider for complete information about the risks and benefits of using this medication***