

How to use this medication

What is it



Telaprevir is a medication used to treat hepatitis C. It is always used with peginterferon and ribavirin.

Tablets



Telaprevir comes in 375 mg tablets. The normal dose is 2 tablets taken every 8 hours.

Take it every 8 hours



Telaprevir is taken every 8 hours. Telaprevir is only taken for 12 weeks at a time.

Give it some time



Your doctor will do blood tests after 4 weeks and then again at 12 weeks to see if telaprevir is working for you.

What you need to do

Take this medicine with fatty food



It is very important to take each dose of telaprevir with 20 grams of fat. The fat is needed to make the medicine work. Some suggestions include:

- A bagel with cream cheese
- ½ cup nuts
- 3 tablespoons peanut butter
- 1 cup ice cream
- 2 ounces American or cheddar cheese
- 2 ounces potato chips
- ½ cup trail mix

Don't get pregnant or breastfeed



Telaprevir is always used with other medications - peginterferon & ribavirin. Ribavirin can cause birth defects or stillbirth. The birth control pill may not work while taking telaprevir. If you are having sex, it is very important to use barrier methods (condom plus spermicidal agents). If possible it is best to abstain from sexual intercourse while taking telaprevir.

Get regular blood tests



It is important to have regular blood tests while taking telaprevir. This is to make sure the medicine isn't affecting your blood counts.

Drug interactions



There are several medications (prescription, over the counter, and herbal products) that are not safe to take with telaprevir. Discuss with your doctor or nurse.

Side effects & important facts

Rash & itchiness



Telaprevir can cause a rash or itchiness. Severe skin rashes have been seen with telaprevir. Let your doctor or nurse know as soon as possible if you develop a rash.

Anal discomfort



Telaprevir may cause itchiness or discomfort around the anus. It may also cause a burning sensation with a bowel movement.

Nausea, diarrhea & weight loss



Some people feel unwell and experience nausea when they take telaprevir. Telaprevir can also cause diarrhea. Let your doctor or nurse know if you are losing weight while taking telaprevir.

Fatigue



Telaprevir can make you feel weak and tired.

Shortness of breath & chest pain



Tell your doctor or nurse if you develop shortness of breath or chest pain.

When should I call my doctor

Please call if you need to stop

- If you feel sick and want to stop
- If you are concerned about any side effects
- If you want to or have already stopped the medicine



Other reasons to call your doctor or nurse:



If you develop a rash



Nausea or diarrhea



Shortness of breath or chest pain



Pregnant or planning pregnancy



If you start any new medicine