



Oxford University Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Leflunomide

Drug information for Patients



Leflunomide is a once daily medication, the dose may be increased depending on response. We sometimes start leflunomide at a lower dose and increase as tolerated.

Leflunomide

- Leflunomide tablets can be taken any time with or without food.
- Leflunomide come as **10mg** or **20mg** tablets – you should ensure you are aware of the strength of tablet provided in order to confirm you are taking the correct dose.

You have been prescribed **leflunomide tablets** to take _____ once every day.

If tolerated increase to _____ **mg** once every day after _____ weeks.

General Information

Leflunomide can take up to **3 months** to have an effect. We may prescribe you some steroids to take if you are flaring while waiting for the medication to work.

Please discuss with your doctor or pharmacist before starting new medications, including herbal remedies and dietary supplements to ensure interactions are checked.

Diarrhoea is a common side effect that usually settles with time.

If you notice any concerning side effects including a very sore throat or abnormal bruising, please contact our specialist team advice line on:

Email: ouh-tr.rheumatologynurses@nhs.net.

Monitoring

The Rheumatology team will provide you with blood forms to take to your regular GP for blood tests to be taken at 2 weeks, 4 weeks and 6 weeks after starting leflunomide. The Rheumatology team will monitor the results of these blood tests.

We will provide a prescription for the first 8 weeks of treatment and monitor your blood results. We will then hand over to your GP for ongoing prescriptions and monitoring if you are managing well.

In order to ensure that the medication is not causing any problems, and that you are happy to continue taking it, we will send you a link to an electronic questionnaire in approximately 5 weeks. Please complete this within a week of receiving the link so that we can start the process of transferring the prescribing and monitoring of this treatment to your GP without delays or gaps in treatment. Please contact us if you are unable to complete the questionnaire electronically or have any questions. Your GP can also contact us at any time with any queries or concerns.

If your GP surgery is outside of Oxfordshire, we will not be able to see the blood results unless your GP surgery sends them to our department.

Pregnancy

Leflunomide **must NOT** be taken during pregnancy. If you are a woman planning to conceive, please contact your Rheumatologist for family planning advice. In the event of unplanned pregnancy stop leflunomide immediately and contact your Rheumatologist.

Rheumatology Educational Materials

Link to video playlist for Rheumatology

Education material:

www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXc9Lskf-Han5D4Aj99n2vWJRlqZmO-t

QR code for video playlist:



Feedback for Early Inflammatory Arthritis videos

Link to feedback questionnaire:

forms.office.com/r/68Nh8PNmhG

QR code for feedback questionnaire:



Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

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Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
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