

Medication Information

Linezolid (Li – NE – zoh – lid)

Other names for this medication

Zyvoxam®
Zyvox®

How to take this medication

Take this medication exactly as directed by your health care provider. It must be taken regularly, until you have none left, even if you feel well. Stopping an antibiotic too early may result in failure to cure your infection.

Tell your health care provider and pharmacist about any other medications, natural or herbal products that you take – even the ones you buy without a prescription.

If you miss a dose of this medication, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take the medication at your regular dosing time. Do not take 2 doses at one time.

While taking this medication you may notice:

- nausea
- upset stomach
- diarrhea
- headache

Tablets: Tablets may be taken with or without food.

Oral solution: Shake the oral liquid for at least 15 seconds before measuring and taking each dose. Store at room temperature, and can be used for 21 days after being mixed by the pharmacist.

Contact your health care provider right away or go to the emergency department if you notice:

- severe diarrhea and/or abdominal pain
- no improvement or worsening of your infection
- worsening skin rash or hives
- a temperature higher than 38°C (100.4°F)
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- swelling of hands, face, throat, tongue or lips
- changes in sensation in your hands or feet
- changes in vision

This medication information handout does not list all possible unwanted effects. Keep track of changes after you start taking this medication and report any unwanted effects to your health care provider.

Your health care provider may ask you to get regular blood tests to monitor for possible side effects with your blood from this antibiotic.

Please make sure you have a lab requisition to do this.

Common medications and foods that interact with linezolid

Use caution with selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) such as citalopram, escitalopram, fluoxetine, fluvoxamine, paroxetine or sertraline while taking linezolid.

Speak to your pharmacist or health care provider if you take any of the above medication.

Avoid these foods and drinks while taking linezolid:

- aged cheese
- cured meats and sausages
- fava or broad bean pods
- marmite concentrate
- sauerkraut
- soy sauce or other soybean condiments
- red wine
- beer (including non-alcoholic).

Pregnancy: Linezolid is not recommended for use in pregnancy. If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, talk to your health care provider about the risks and benefits of taking this medication.

Breastfeeding: A small amount of linezolid passes into breast milk. Please discuss the risks and benefits of taking this medication with your health care provider.

Children: Linezolid is safe to use with infants, children and adolescents.