

## **Package leaflet: Information for the patient**

### **Linezolid 600 mg film-coated tablets**

linezolid

**Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

#### **What is in this leaflet**

1. What Linezolid is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Linezolid
3. How to take Linezolid
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Linezolid
6. Contents of the pack and other information

#### **1. What Linezolid is and what it is used for**

Linezolid is an antibiotic of the oxazolidinones group that works by stopping the growth of certain bacteria (germs) that cause infections.

It is used to treat pneumonia and some infections in the skin or under the skin. Your doctor will have decided if Linezolid is suitable to treat your infection.

#### **2. What you need to know before you take Linezolid**

##### **Do not take Linezolid if you are**

- allergic to linezolid or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6)
- taking or have taken within the last 2 weeks any medicines known as monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs for example phenelzine, isocarboxazid, selegiline, moclobemide)  
These may be used to treat depression or Parkinson's disease.
- breast-feeding  
This is because it passes into breast milk and could affect the baby.

Linezolid may not be suitable for you if you answer **yes** to any of the following questions. In this case tell your doctor as he/she will need to check your general health and your blood pressure before and during your treatment, or may decide that another treatment is better for you.

Ask your doctor if you are not sure whether these categories apply to you.

- Do you have high blood pressure?
- Have you been diagnosed with an overactive thyroid?

- Do you have a tumour of the adrenal glands (phaeochromocytoma) or carcinoid syndrome (caused by tumours of the hormone system with symptoms of diarrhoea, flushing of the skin, wheezing)?
- Do you suffer from manic depression, schizoaffective disorder, mental confusion or other mental problems?
- Are you taking any of the following medicines?
  - decongestant cold or flu remedies containing pseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine
  - medicines used to treat asthma such as salbutamol, terbutaline, fenoterol
  - antidepressants known as tricyclics or SSRIs (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors) for example amitriptyline, cipramil, clomipramine, dosulepin, doxepin, fluoxetine, fluvoxamine, imipramine, lofepramine, paroxetine, sertraline
  - medicines used to treat migraine such as sumatriptan and zolmitriptan
  - medicines used to treat sudden, severe allergic reactions such as adrenaline (epinephrine)
  - medicines which increase your blood pressure, such as noradrenaline (norepinephrine), dopamine and dobutamine
  - medicines used to treat moderate to severe pain, such as pethidine
  - medicines used to treat anxiety disorders, such as buspirone
  - an antibiotic called rifampicin.

### **Warnings and precautions**

Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse before taking Linezolid if you

- bruise and bleed easily
- are anaemic
- are prone to getting infections
- have a history of seizures
- have liver problems or kidney problems particularly if you have dialysis
- have diarrhoea.

Tell your doctor immediately if during treatment you suffer from

- problems with your vision such as blurred vision, changes in colour vision, difficulty in seeing detail or if your field of vision becomes restricted.
- You may develop diarrhoea while taking or after taking antibiotics, including Linezolid. If this becomes severe or persistent or you notice that your stools contains blood or mucus, you should stop taking Linezolid immediately and consult your doctor. In this situation, you should not take medicines that stop or slow bowel movement.
- recurrent nausea or vomiting, abdominal pain or over breathing.

While you are taking Linezolid, your doctor should perform regular blood tests to monitor your blood count.

Your doctor should monitor your eyesight if you take Linezolid for more than 28 days.

### **Children and adolescents**

Linezolid is not normally used to treat children and adolescents (under 18 years old).

### **Other medicines and Linezolid**

There is a risk that Linezolid may sometimes interact with certain other medicines to cause side effects such as changes in blood pressure, temperature or heart rate

Tell your doctor if you are taking or have taken **within the last 2 weeks** the following medicines as Linezolid **must not** be taken if you are already taking these medicines or have taken them recently (see also section above “Do not take Linezolid”):

- monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs for example phenelzine, isocarboxazid, selegiline, moclobemide)

These may be used to treat depression or Parkinson’s disease.

Also tell your doctor if you are taking the following medicines. Your doctor may still decide to give you Linezolid, but will need to check your general health and your blood pressure before and during your treatment. In other cases, your doctor may decide that another treatment is better for you.

- decongestant cold or flu remedies containing pseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine
- some medicines used to treat asthma such as salbutamol, terbutaline, fenoterol
- certain antidepressants known as tricyclics or SSRIs (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors) There are many of these, including amitriptyline, citalopram, clomipramine, desvenlafaxine, doxepin, fluoxetine, fluvoxamine, imipramine, lofepramine, paroxetine, sertraline.
- medicines used to treat migraine such as sumatriptan and zolmitriptan
- medicines used to treat sudden, severe allergic reactions such as adrenaline (epinephrine)
- medicines which increase your blood pressure, such as noradrenaline (norepinephrine), dopamine and dobutamine
- medicines used to treat moderate to severe pain, such as pethidine
- medicines used to treat anxiety disorders, such as buspirone
- medicines that stop blood clotting, such as warfarin.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

#### **Linezolid with food, drink and alcohol**

- Avoid eating large amounts of mature cheese, yeast extracts, or soya bean extracts e.g. soy sauce and drinking alcohol, especially draught beers and wine. This is because this medicine may react with a substance called tyramine which is naturally present in some foods to cause an increase in your blood pressure.
- If you develop a throbbing headache after eating or drinking, tell your doctor or pharmacist immediately.

See also section 3 “Method of use” for further information.

#### **Pregnancy and breast-feeding**

The effect of Linezolid in pregnant women is not known. Therefore, it should not be taken in pregnancy unless advised by your doctor.

If you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor for advice before taking this medicine.

You should not breast-feed when taking Linezolid because it passes into breast milk and could affect the baby.

### **Driving and using machines**

Linezolid may make you feel dizzy or experience problems with your vision. If this happens, do not drive or operate any machinery. Remember that if you are unwell your ability to drive or operate machinery may be affected.

### **Linezolid contains sodium**

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per film-coated tablet, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

## **3. How to take Linezolid**

### **Adults**

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

The recommended dose **for adults** is **one tablet** (600 mg linezolid) **twice daily** (every twelve hours).

A course of treatment usually lasts 10 to 14 days but can last up to 28 days.

The safety and effectiveness of this medicine have not been established for treatment periods longer than 28 days. Your doctor will decide how long you should be treated.

### **Use in children and adolescents**

Linezolid is not normally used to treat children and adolescents (under 18 years old).

### **Method of use**

Swallow the tablet whole with some water.

You can take Linezolid either before, during or after a meal.

If you are on kidney dialysis, you should take Linezolid after dialysis.

### **If you take more Linezolid than you should**

Tell your doctor or pharmacist immediately.

### **If you forget to take Linezolid**

Take the forgotten tablet as soon as you remember.

Take the next tablet 12 hours after this and continue taking your tablets every 12 hours.

Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten tablet.

### **If you stop taking Linezolid**

Unless your doctor instructs you to stop treatment, it is important to continue taking Linezolid.

If you stop taking Linezolid and your original symptoms come back, tell your doctor or pharmacist immediately.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

#### 4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

**Tell your doctor, pharmacist or nurse immediately** if you notice any of these side effects during your treatment with Linezolid:

- skin reactions such as red sore skin and flaking (dermatitis), rash, itching, or swelling, particularly around the face and neck  
This may be the sign of an allergic reaction and it may be necessary for you to stop taking Linezolid.
- problems with your vision such as blurred vision, changes in colour vision, difficulty in seeing detail or if your field of vision becomes restricted
- severe diarrhoea containing blood and/or mucus (antibiotic associated colitis including pseudomembranous colitis), which in very rare circumstances may develop into complications that are life-threatening
- recurrent nausea or vomiting, abdominal pain or over breathing
- fits or seizures have been reported with Linezolid  
You should let your doctor know if you experience agitation, confusion, delirium, rigidity, tremor, incoordination and seizure while also taking antidepressants known as SSRI's (see section 2).

Numbness, tingling or blurred vision have been reported by patients who have been given Linezolid for more than 28 days. If you experience difficulties with your vision you should consult your doctor as soon as possible.

#### **Other side effects:**

**Common:** may affect up to 1 in 10 people

- fungal infections especially vaginal or oral "thrush"
- headache
- metallic taste in the mouth
- diarrhoea, nausea or vomiting
- changes in some blood test results including those measuring your kidney or liver function or blood sugar levels
- unexplained bleeding or bruising, which may be due to changes in the numbers of certain cells in the blood which may affect blood clotting or lead to anaemia.

**Uncommon:** may affect up to 1 in 100 people

- inflammation of the vagina or genital area in women
- changes in numbers of certain cells in the blood which may affect your ability to fight infection
- difficulty in sleeping
- dizziness, sensations such as tingling or feeling numb
- blurred vision
- "ringing" in the ears (tinnitus)
- increased blood pressure, inflammation of the veins
- indigestion, stomach pain, constipation
- dry or sore mouth, swollen, sore, or discoloured tongue

- skin rash
- a need to urinate more often
- fever or chills, aches and pains
- feeling tired or thirsty
- inflammation of the pancreas
- increased sweating
- changes in proteins, salts or enzymes in the blood which measure kidney or liver function.

**Rare:** may affect up to 1 in 1000 people

- changes in heart rate (e.g. increase rate)
- transient ischaemic attacks (temporary disturbance of blood flow to the brain causing short term symptoms such as loss of vision, leg and arm weakness, slurring of speech and loss of consciousness)
- kidney failure.

**Frequency not known:** frequency cannot be estimated from the available data

- serotonin syndrome (symptoms include fast heart rate, confusion, abnormal sweating, hallucinations, involuntary movements chills and shivering)
- lactic acidosis (symptoms include recurrent nausea and vomiting, abdominal pain, overbreathing)
- severe skin disorders
- convulsions
- superficial tooth discolouration, removable with professional dental cleaning (manual descaling)
- alopecia (hair loss)
- hyponatraemia (low blood sodium levels)
- changes in colour vision, difficulty in seeing detail or if your field of vision becomes restricted.

### **Reporting of side effects**

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via HPRA Pharmacovigilance; website: [www.hpra.ie](http://www.hpra.ie). By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

## **5. How to store Linezolid**

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and blister after 'EXP'. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

This medicinal product does not require any special storage conditions.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

## **6. Contents of the pack and other information**

### **What Linezolid contains**

- The active substance is linezolid. Each film-coated tablet contains 600 mg of linezolid.
- The other ingredients are cellulose microcrystalline, silica colloidal anhydrous, sodium starch glycolate type A, hydroxy propyl cellulose, magnesium stearate in the core; hypromellose (E464), titanium dioxide (E171), macrogol (E1521) in the film-coating.

### **What Linezolid looks like and contents of the pack**

Linezolid 600 mg film-coated tablets are white to off white coloured biconvex oval shaped film-coated tablet, 18.8 mm long, 9.9 mm wide and 6.4 mm thick with “LZ600” debossed on one side and plain on the other side.

Linezolid 600 mg film-coated tablets are available as blister in packs containing:

10, 10 (10x1), 20, 28, 30, 50, 60, 100 film-coated tablets

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

### **Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturers**

#### **Marketing Authorisation Holder**

Rowex Ltd., Bantry, Co. Cork, Ireland.

#### **Manufacturers:**

Lek Pharmaceuticals d.d., Verovškova 57, 1526 Ljubljana, Slovenia.

S.C. Sandoz, S.R.L., Str. Livezeni nr. 7A, RO-540472 Targu-Mures, Romania.

Salutas Pharma GmbH, Otto-von-Guericke-Allee 1, 39179 Barleben, Germany.

### **This medicinal product is authorised in the Member States of the EEA under the following names:**

NL	Linezolid Sandoz 600 mg, filmomhulde tabletten
AT	Linezolid Sandoz 600 mg – Filmtabletten
BE	Linezolid Sandoz 600 mg filmomhulde tabletten
CZ	Linezolid Sandoz 600 mg potahované tablety
DE	Linezolid – 1 A Pharma 600 mg Filmtabletten
DK	Linezolid “Sandoz”
EE	Linezolid Sandoz
ES	Linezolid Sandoz 600 mg comprimidos recubiertos con película EFG
FI	Linezolid Sandoz 600 mg tabletti, kalvopäällysteinen
FR	LINEZOLIDE SANDOZ 600 mg, comprimé pelliculé
HR	Lynz 600 mg filmom obložene tablete
IE	Linezolid 600 mg film-coated tablets
NO	Linezolid Sandoz
RO	Linezolid Sandoz 600 mg comprimate filmate
SE	Linezolid Sandoz 600 mg filmdragerade tabletter
SK	Linezolid Sandoz 600 mg filmom obalené tablety

UK Linezolid 600 mg Film-coated tablets

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