

LINEZOLID

Linezolid is an antibiotic used to treat certain bacterial infections.
It will not work against viral infections such as colds or flu.

Reason for antibiotic:	
Planned duration:	
My doctor's name:	
Doctor's contact details:	

How do I take linezolid?

- Linezolid can be taken **with or without food**.

What do I need to be aware of before I take linezolid?

- Discuss any **pre-existing medical conditions** with your doctor.
- Discuss **other medicines you are currently taking or plan to start taking** (including herbal and over-the-counter medicines) with your doctor and/or pharmacist. This is to ensure linezolid is safe to take together with your current medicines.
- Pregnancy and breastfeeding:** Limited information is available. Discuss with your doctor if you are or are planning to become pregnant or breastfeeding during your antibiotic course.

What do I need to be aware of while taking linezolid?

- Avoid cold and flu medicines containing **pseudoephedrine** while taking linezolid.

The information contained in this brochure is for educational purposes only and is not intended as a substitute for consultation with a doctor or health care professional. Ask your pharmacist or doctor if you have any additional questions or would like more detailed information about this medicine. **Last reviewed:** 30th October 2023 | **Next review** by November 2026.

Acknowledgement: The Royal Melbourne Hospital (RMH) Antimicrobial Stewardship Pharmacists and RMH Guidance Group Project Officers

- Linezolid may cause an increase in your blood pressure if it is taken with foods and drinks containing a lot of **tyramine**. This is found in some foods that have been aged, fermented, pickled or smoked. Some examples include matured cheese, aged or cured meats, yeast extracts (such as vegemite®), soybean products (such as tofu or soy sauce), and some alcoholic drinks. Try to minimise these in your diet while you are taking linezolid. If you develop a throbbing headache after eating or drinking, consult your doctor immediately.

Common side effects of linezolid:

- **Nausea and vomiting**; usually mild and improves over a few days.
- **Diarrhoea**; usually improves over a few days. If diarrhoea occurs, avoid anti-diarrhoeal medicines such as loperamide (the active ingredient in Imodium® or Gastro-Stop®), unless advised by your doctor. See your doctor if you have frequent and watery diarrhoea.
- **Change in taste** e.g. metallic taste; this is not harmful and should return to normal once you finish your course of linezolid.
- If any of these symptoms are severe or last more than a few days, see your doctor.

Rare reactions and/or side effects of linezolid to be aware of:

- **Allergic reactions** such as a rash, itch, blisters or red skin spots; stop taking this medicine and see your doctor.
- **Signs of a serious allergic reaction**, such as difficulty breathing or swelling of the face, eyes or lips; call for an ambulance immediately OR present to the accident and emergency department at your nearest hospital immediately.
- **Changes or problems with your eyesight**, such as difficulty seeing, blurry vision or colour changes; if this occurs, stop taking this medicine and see your doctor.
- **Fevers, shivering, sweating, confusion or muscle jerks**; if this occurs, stop taking this medicine and see your doctor.
- **Numbness, tingling, pain or weakness in your arms or legs**. This is more likely with high dose and/or long treatment courses (weeks). If this occurs, stop taking this medicine and see your doctor.
- **Reduced blood cells in your body**. Signs include unexplained tiredness, shortness of breath when exercising, dizziness, bleeding, bruising or looking pale. During prolonged treatment (for example, longer than 2 weeks), your doctor may request a blood test to check the number of blood cells in your body.

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