

Deferasirox

What is Deferasiroz (Dee-FER-a-sir-ox) and how does it work?

Deferasirox is a medicine used to remove excess iron from the body in people who have received a large number of blood transfusions. Another name for this drug is Exjade or Jadenu. It works by attaching to iron in the body and moving it into the colon, so it can be removed when you have a bowel movement.

It is important to take this medicine as directed by your doctor without missing any doses. If too much iron builds up in the body, it can cause serious health problems.

What should I tell my doctor before taking this medicine?

Talk to your doctor about the following:

- The medicines/pills you are taking, including:
 - ▶ Medicines prescribed by any of your doctors
 - ▶ Herbal supplements
 - ▶ Vitamins
 - ▶ Over-the-counter medicines
- If you are taking a medicine with aluminum, such as Maalox, Mylanta, Gaviscon or Amphogel. Your doctor may change how you take your medicines while you are on Deferasirox.
- If you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or plan to become pregnant. Your doctor will talk with you about birth control while getting treatment.
- If you are breastfeeding.

This handout is for informational purposes only. Talk with your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

How do I take this medicine?

- There are 3 medicine choices available for Deferasirox.
 - ▶ **Exjade tablets** - The tablet should be taken at the same time each day on an empty stomach and 30 minutes before eating. To take the medicine, you must mix it with a liquid (water, apple juice, orange juice) until it is dissolved. Once your medicine is mixed, you should take it right away.
 - ▶ **Jadenu tablets** - The tablet should be taken at the same time each day. It can be taken with or without a light meal.
 - ▶ **Jadenu Sprinkle (granules)** - The granules should be taken at the same time each day and can be taken with or without a light meal. Sprinkle granules on soft food such as yogurt or applesauce.
- It is important to follow the instructions from your doctor or pharmacist for how to mix your medicine.
- While you are taking this medicine, your doctor will order tests to check your blood. The dose of Deferasirox you will receive is based on your blood counts. Your doctor may change your dose every 3 to 6 months.
- It is important to have your blood drawn and keep all your doctor appointments while you are taking this medicine. Always bring a list of your current medicines with you to your doctor appointments.
- **Do not** stop taking Deferasirox without talking to your doctor first.

What should I do if I have an allergic reaction to this medicine?

This medicine can cause a serious allergic reaction in some patients. These symptoms can be life threatening if not treated. **You should call 911 or go to the emergency room right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms:**

- Hives, rash or blisters on your skin
- Hoarseness
- Itching
- Trouble breathing or swallowing
- Swelling of your face, throat, tongue, lips, eyes, hands, ankles, lower legs or feet

- Nausea and vomiting that lasts more than 24 hours
- Confusion
- Pain in the upper right part of the stomach
- Muscle twitching
- Seizures

When should I call my doctor?

You should call your doctor if you have any of the following signs or symptoms:

- Pain in your stomach
- Mild nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea (loose stools)
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Cough
- Change in your vision or hearing
- Tiredness
- Yellowing of the skin or eyes

Is there anything else I should know about this medicine?

- This medicine may make you dizzy. For your safety, you should not drive a car or operate heavy machines until you know how this medicine may affect you.
- Taking this medicine with certain drugs may cause bleeding. Talk with your doctor if you are taking any of the following:
 - ▶ Blood thinner
 - ▶ Anti-inflammatory, like ibuprofen
 - ▶ Aspirin
 - ▶ Steroids
 - ▶ Medicines to strengthen bones, like Fosamax
- You should drink 8 to 10 eight-ounce glasses of non-caffeinated fluid each day while taking this medicine. It is important to keep hydrated while you are receiving this treatment.