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Everolimus: Patient drug information

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(For additional information [see "Everolimus: Drug information"](#) and [see "Everolimus: Pediatric drug information"](#))

Brand Names: US Afinitor; Afinitor Disperz; Zortress

Brand Names: Canada Afinitor; Afinitor Disperz

Warning

Zortress®

- This drug may raise the chance of very bad and sometimes deadly infections. Talk with the doctor.
- This drug may raise the chance of getting cancer like lymphoma or skin cancer. Call your doctor right away if you have a change in color or size of a mole, a skin lump or growth, a big weight loss, night sweats, or swollen glands.
- In people who have had a kidney transplant, the risk of a blood clot in your kidney transplant may be raised. This may lead to loss of the kidney. Most of the time, this has happened within the first 30 days after the kidney transplant. Call your doctor right away if you have back, groin, or belly pain; are not able to pass urine; have blood in your urine, dark urine, a fever, or an upset stomach; or you are throwing up.
- If you are taking this drug with cyclosporine, you will need a lower dose of cyclosporine. Talk with your doctor.
- This drug is not to be used if you have had a heart transplant. More deaths were seen in people taking this drug after a heart transplant. Talk with your doctor.

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat cancer.
- It is used to treat certain kinds of kidney cysts.
- It is used to keep the body from harming the organ after an organ transplant.
- It may be given to you for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?

All products:

- If you have an allergy to everolimus, temsirolimus, sirolimus, or any other part of this drug.
- If you are allergic to any drugs like this one, any other drugs, foods, or other substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had, like rash; hives; itching; shortness of breath; wheezing; cough; swelling of face, lips, tongue, or throat; or any other signs.
- If you have an infection.
- If you take any drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) that must not be taken with this drug, like certain drugs that are used for HIV, infections, or depression. There are many drugs that must not be taken with this drug. Your doctor or pharmacist can tell you if you are taking a drug that must not be taken with this drug.
- If you are taking another drug that has the same drug in it.
- If you are taking St. John's wort. Do not take St. John's wort with this drug. This drug may not work as well.

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- If you have a rare hereditary problem of galactose intolerance, Lapp lactase deficiency, or glucose-galactose malabsorption.
- If you are breast-feeding. Do not breast-feed while you take this drug.

All other products:

- If you are breast-feeding. Do not breast-feed while you take this drug and for 2 weeks after your last dose.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take this drug with all of your drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug without checking with your doctor.

What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?

All products:

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- You may have more chance of getting an infection. Some infections have been deadly. Wash hands often. Stay away from people with infections, colds, or flu.
- Check your blood sugar as you have been told by your doctor.
- Tell your doctor if you have signs of high blood sugar like confusion, feeling sleepy, more thirst, more hungry, passing urine more often, flushing, fast breathing, or breath that smells like fruit.
- Have blood work checked as you have been told by the doctor. Talk with the doctor.
- Avoid grapefruit and grapefruit juice.
- Talk with your doctor before getting any vaccines. Use with this drug may either raise the chance of an infection or make the vaccine not work as well.
- If you have mouth irritation or mouth sores, do not use mouth rinses that have alcohol, peroxide, iodine, or thyme in them. Talk with your doctor.
- This drug may affect how wounds heal. Sometimes, people with wound healing problems have needed surgery. Call your doctor right away if you have a wound that is red, warm, painful, or swollen. Call your doctor right away if your wound opens up or if there is blood, fluid, or pus in a wound.

- Very bad and sometimes deadly lung problems have happened with this drug. Call your doctor right away if you have lung or breathing problems like trouble breathing, shortness of breath, or a cough that is new or worse.
- If you are 65 or older, use this drug with care. You could have more side effects.
- This drug may affect sperm in men. This may affect being able to father a child. Talk with the doctor.
- This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if you take it while you are pregnant.
- Use birth control that you can trust during care and for 2 months after care ends.
- If you get pregnant while taking this drug or within 2 months after your last dose, call your doctor right away.

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- This drug may raise the chance of high blood sugar (diabetes). Talk with the doctor.
- There is a chance of skin cancer. Avoid sun, sunlamps, and tanning beds. Use sunscreen and wear clothing and eyewear that protects you from the sun.
- In people who have had a liver transplant, the risk of a blood clot in the liver transplant may be raised. This may lead to loss of the liver or death. Most of the time, this has happened within the first 30 days after the liver transplant. Talk with the doctor.
- Some people treated with this drug have had very bad kidney problems caused by a certain viral infection (BK virus). In people who have had a kidney transplant, BK virus infection may cause loss of the kidney. Call your doctor right away if you have signs of kidney problems like change in the amount of urine passed, difficulty or pain when passing urine, or blood in the urine.

All other products:

- Avoid being near anyone who has had a recent live vaccine. There are many types of live vaccines. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.
- This drug may cause fertility problems. This may affect being able to have children. Talk with the doctor.

What are some side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?

WARNING/CAUTION: Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

All products:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Signs of infection like fever, chills, very bad sore throat, ear or sinus pain, cough, more sputum or change in color of sputum, pain with passing urine, mouth sores, or wound that will not heal.
- Signs of liver problems like dark urine, feeling tired, not hungry, upset stomach or stomach pain, light-colored stools, throwing up, or yellow skin or eyes.
- Redness or irritation of the palms of hands or soles of feet.
- A burning, numbness, or tingling feeling that is not normal.
- Chest pain.
- Any unexplained bruising or bleeding.
- A fast heartbeat.

- A heartbeat that does not feel normal.
- Seizures.
- Very bad dizziness or passing out.
- Muscle pain or weakness.
- Period (menstrual) changes. These may include a missed period.
- Mood changes.
- Change in the way you act.
- Swelling.
- Very bad and sometimes deadly kidney problems have happened with this drug. Call your doctor right away if you are unable to pass urine or if you have blood in the urine or a change in the amount of urine passed.

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- A very bad brain problem called progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) may happen with this drug. It may cause disability or death. Tell your doctor right away if you have signs like confusion, memory problems, low mood (depression), change in the way you act, change in strength on 1 side is greater than the other, trouble speaking or thinking, change in balance, or change in eyesight.

What are some other side effects of this drug?

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

- Dizziness.
- Pimples (acne).
- Feeling tired or weak.
- Headache.
- Not able to sleep.
- Upset stomach or throwing up.
- Loose stools (diarrhea).
- Hard stools (constipation).
- Mouth irritation or mouth sores.
- Change in taste.
- Not hungry.
- Weight loss.
- Dry mouth.
- Dry skin.
- Change in nails.
- Hair loss.
- Joint pain.
- Back pain.
- Pain in arms or legs.
- Muscle spasm.

- Nosebleed.
- Belly pain.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

How is this drug best taken?

Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

All products:

- Take with or without food. Always take with food or always take on an empty stomach.
- To gain the most benefit, do not miss doses.
- Keep taking this drug as you have been told by your doctor or other health care provider, even if you feel well.
- Take this drug at the same time of day.
- Do not switch between different forms of this drug without first talking with the doctor.

Tablets:

- Take with a full glass of water.
- Swallow whole. Do not chew, break, or crush.

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- If you take cyclosporine or tacrolimus, take them at the same time as this drug.

Disperz tablets:

- Take as a liquid only. Do not swallow tablets whole.
- Wear gloves when touching this drug.
- Mix with water as you have been told before drinking.
- Drink right after mixing. Throw away any part not used after 1 hour.
- If possible, do not mix this drug if you are pregnant or plan to get pregnant. Talk with the doctor.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

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- Take a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it is close to the time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.

All other products:

- Take a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it has been 6 hours or more since the missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.

All products:

- Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.

How do I store and/or throw out this drug?

- Store in the original container at room temperature.
- Protect from light.
- Store in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
- Check with your pharmacist about how to throw out unused drugs.

General drug facts

- If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.
- Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else's drugs.
- Keep a list of all your drugs (prescription, natural products, vitamins, OTC) with you. Give this list to your doctor.
- Talk with the doctor before starting any new drug, including prescription or OTC, natural products, or vitamins.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

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