



# A guide to...

## Zepatier

### *Patient information*

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## Zepatier

This highlights the most important things you need to know about your new medicine. It is not intended to replace the patient information leaflet that comes with the medicine, but should be read as well. If you have any questions about Zepatier, ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

### What is Zepatier?

Zepatier contains two different agents for the treatment of Hepatitis C: Elbasvir 50mg and grazeprevir 100mg. By blocking certain proteins, Zepatier stops the hepatitis C virus from multiplying and infecting new cells.

Please speak to your specialist doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you would like more information about how these drugs work.

### How should I take Zepatier?

The recommended dose is **one** tablet **once** a day. Your doctor will tell you for how many weeks you should take Zepatier.

Zepatier is sometimes taken with another medicine, Ribavirin - your doctor/nurse/pharmacist will advise you about this and how to take it.

Swallow the tablet whole with or without food. If you have any problems swallowing, tell your doctor or pharmacist.

**If you are sick (vomit) after taking Zepatier it may affect the amount of Zepatier in your blood. This may make Zepatier less effective.**

- If you are sick (vomit) less than four hours after taking Zepatier - take another tablet 8 hours before the next dose.
- If you are sick (vomit) more than four hours after taking it - WAIT until your next scheduled tablet

### How much food do I need to take with Zepatier?

You can take it with or without food

### What are the common side effects with Zepatier?

Zepatier, like all other medicines, has some side effects. Most of these are minor and will settle within a few days or weeks.

- Headaches
- Tiredness

If you experience any side effects, and either they are troubling you or you develop any new symptoms after you start Zepatier, tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist who will tell you what to do.

If you have a question about Zepatier or any of your medicines, speak to your doctor, pharmacist or hepatology nurse.

## What medicines should I avoid with Zepatier?

It is always important to make your doctor and pharmacist aware of any medicines you take to ensure that they are compatible with Zepatier. Some drugs which need to be chosen carefully are:

Medicine	Why does your doctor and pharmacist need to know about this?
Bosentan	Bosentan should not be taken with Zepatier as it will make Zepatier less effective.
Carbamazepine Phenytoin Phenobarbital Oxcarbazepine	Avoid taking these drugs as they may decrease the effect of Zepatier
Rifampicin or rifabutin	Avoid taking these drugs as they decrease the effect of Zepatier
Cholesterol medicines called statins	Zepatier may increase the effects of some statins which may be harmful. Your clinic doctor will help choose the right statin for you.
St John's wort for depression	Avoid taking this drug as it may decrease the effect of Zepatier
Ciclosporin	Ciclosporin should not be taken with Zepatier as it will make Zepatier less effective.

## What if I...

### Get a headache or just need a pain killer?

Paracetamol can be taken with Zepatier. Ibuprofen can also be taken unless your doctor has advised you to avoid NSAIDs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) for any reason.

### Get hayfever or have other allergies?

Antihistamines e.g. loratidine, cetirizine, prochlorperazine can be taken with Zepatier. If your allergy is related to Zepatier (such as a rash) or any other medicines, speak to your clinic doctor/nurse or pharmacist before taking any medicines. You should speak to your doctor or pharmacist before using any nasal sprays or getting any injections, to check for possible interactions with Zepatier and any other medicines you are taking.

### Get diarrhoea?

For short-term diarrhoea relief, you can use loperamide at low doses. Remember to drink plenty of fluids. If you get a lot of diarrhoea and it lasts more than a few days, contact your nurse/doctor to ask for advice.

### Get heartburn, reflux, indigestion or need medicines for stomach ulcers?

Antacids and medicines such as omeprazole, lansoprazole may be taken with Zepatier.

### Am prescribed or take something for my mood, such as an antidepressant or St John's wort?

Check with your doctor/nurse or pharmacist before taking these. St John's wort must not be taken whilst you are taking Zepatier.

### Currently take, or would like to take, supplements, including calcium or iron?

Most supplements can be taken with Zepatier, but always check with your doctor/nurse or pharmacist before taking them.

### **Miss my Zepatier!**

Zepatier works best if there is a constant amount of the drugs in your body. It is really important that you take them regularly. However, occasionally you may forget a dose. Don't worry if this happens, just follow the guidance below. If you are having problems remembering to take your medicines, speak with your doctor or nurse now and they may be able to help you.

If you do miss a dose:

- **And you notice within 16 hours** of the time you usually take it, you must take the tablet as soon as possible. Then take the next dose at your usual time.
- **And you notice 16 hours or more** after the time you usually take Zepatier, wait and take the next dose at your usual time. Do not take a double dose (two doses together).