

Information about

**Avacopan (Tavneos®)
for treating ANCA vasculitis**

Please also read the patient information leaflet enclosed
within the avacopan box.

Renal Day Ward (4C)

Queen Elizabeth University Hospital

1345 Govan Road

Glasgow G51 4TF

☎ 0141 452 3760

Avacopan is being used to help treat your kidney disease. Many patients have been given avacopan, but like all drugs it has some side effects. This leaflet should help you understand what avacopan is and what to expect from treatment.

What is Avacopan?

Avacopan is a medicine used to treat adults with a newly diagnosed severe ANCA vasculitis, an inflammation of the small blood vessels, called granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA) and microscopic polyangiitis (MPA).

It works by reducing inflammation of blood vessels. Specifically, it attaches to a protein in the body, called complement 5a receptor. Complement 5a receptor has a major role in stimulating inflammation. This medicine attaches to it and prevents it from working.

Avacopan can be used together with other treatments prescribed by your doctor e.g. intravenous rituximab or cyclophosphamide.

Taking Avacopan

Avacopan is supplied as 10mg capsules. The dose is 30mg (3x10mg capsules) that you take twice a day - morning and evening with food. You should swallow the capsules whole with a glass of water.

- If you forget to take avacopan and have more than 3 hours to go until your next dose, take the missed dose as soon as possible and then take your next dose at the right time.

Or

- If you have less than 3 hours to your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Just take your next dose at the usual time.

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

How do I get Avacopan?

Your prescription will be supplied by the pharmacy in The Queen Elizabeth University hospital. You will receive a one-month supply at a time. It is not possible to provide you with any more than this at any one time.

Please telephone the renal day ward on ☎ **0141 452-3760** when you have two weeks supply left, we will then arrange your next prescription.

Your GP, community pharmacy or your local hospital cannot supply Avacopan due to the nature and cost of this medication.

While on avacopan we will also give you co-trimoxazole (or an alternative if you are unable to take co-trimoxazole) to prevent a serious lung infection called Pneumocystis jirovecii pneumonia. Your GP will supply co-trimoxazole.

After starting Avacopan, we will see you in the clinic to check your response to the medication. If there has been no significant improvement in your condition, the medication may not be right for you, and we may stop it. Your medical team will discuss the treatment options with you. The maximum duration of therapy is one year.

Monitoring

You will have your blood counts and liver function tests monitored before starting treatment and then every 4 weeks for the first 3 months and then every 3 months thereafter during treatment. You will get these bloods taken at the clinic.

Side effects

If you experience any side effects to your treatment (rash, signs of infection, unexpected bruising or bleeding or any other adverse effect), please tell your kidney consultant.

Stop treatment and get urgent medical advice (**Phone 999**) if you get swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat, or breathing difficulties.

Other side effects listed are abnormal liver tests, abdominal

pain, diarrhoea, headache, nausea and vomiting. As this type of medicine can increase your risk of cancer, you should wear at least factor 30 sunscreen, a hat and protective clothing when in strong sunshine and avoid using sunbeds.

Interactions with other medicines

Avacopan may be affected by other medicines which could make your avacopan levels too high, causing side effects or too low so that it does not work. Avacopan can also do this to other medicines such as antibiotics, epilepsy medicines, antidepressants, antifungals, and herbal medicines. Please do not take herbal medicines without speaking to your kidney pharmacist or kidney doctor first. Please check with your kidney pharmacist or kidney doctor before starting any new medicines and remember to mention you are taking Avacopan if you are treated by anyone other than your usual kidney team.

You should avoid eating grapefruit and drinking grapefruit juice when you are taking Avacopan as this can cause side effects.

Drinking excessive amounts of alcohol can affect avacopan levels in your liver and therefore we suggest not drinking more than six units of alcohol a week to reduce unwanted effects.

Please tell your kidney doctor if you are pregnant, thinking about getting pregnant or breast feeding. You should not take Avacopan when you are pregnant.

Vaccinations

Before starting Avacopan we will offer you the pneumococcal (Pneumovax) vaccination, the annual flu and COVID vaccines. You should not have live vaccinations like yellow fever and the shingles vaccine whilst taking Avacopan. For more advice about vaccines, please speak to your kidney team.

Further information:

If you have any questions please ask the staff.