# UPMC | HILLMAN CANCER CENTER

# **Belzutifan (Welireg)**

#### **About This Medicine**

Belzutifan is used to treat cancer. It is given orally (by mouth).

### **Possible Side Effects**

- Decrease in red blood cells. This may make you feel more tired.
- Nausea
- Tiredness
- Headache
- Feeling dizzy
- Blood sugar levels may change
- Changes in your kidney function

**Note:** Each of the side effects above was reported in 25% or greater of patients treated with belzutifan. All possible side effects are not included. Your side effects may be different depending on your cancer diagnosis, condition, or if you are receiving other medicines in combination. Please discuss any concerns or questions with your medical team.

#### **Warnings and Precautions**

- Severe decrease in red blood cells. You may need blood transfusions.
- Decreased level of oxygen which may require you to receive oxygen therapy or be hospitalized.

**Note:** Some of the side effects above are very rare. If you have concerns and/or questions, please discuss them with your medical team.

#### How to Take Your Medicine

- Swallow the medicine whole, with or without food. Take at approximately the same time each day. Do not chew, crush, or split the tablets.
- **Missed dose**: If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you think about it on the same day. Take your next dose at the regular time. Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses to make up for a missed dose. Do not replace a vomited dose.



- Handling: Wash your hands with soap and water, before and after handling your medicine, your caretakers should not handle your medicine with bare hands and should wear latex gloves.
- Cytotoxic medicines leave the body through urine and stool, but they can also be present in other body fluids such as blood, vomit, semen, and vaginal fluids. Take precautions to prevent others from coming in contact with your medicine or your body fluids. Follow safety precautions during your treatment and for as long as directed by your health care provider after your treatment. If you take a cytotoxic pill each day, follow these precautions every day.
- **Storage:** Store this medicine in the original container at room temperature. Do not throw away or eat the desiccant.
- **Disposal of unused medicine:** Do not flush any expired and/or unused medicine down the toilet or drain unless you are specifically instructed to do so on the medicine label. Some facilities have take-back programs and/or other options. If you do not have a take-back program in your area, then please discuss with your nurse or your doctor how to dispose of unused medicine.

# **Treating Side Effects**

- Manage tiredness by pacing your activities for the day.
- Be sure to include periods of rest between energy-draining activities.
- If you are dizzy, get up slowly after sitting or lying.
- Drink enough fluids to keep your urine pale yellow.
- If you throw up, you should drink more fluids so that you do not become dehydrated (lack of water in the body from losing too much fluid).
- To help with nausea and vomiting, eat small, frequent meals instead of three large meals a day. Choose foods and drinks that are at room temperature. Ask your nurse or doctor about other helpful tips and medicine that is available to help stop or lessen these symptoms.
- If you have diabetes, keep good control of your blood sugar level. Tell your nurse or your doctor if your glucose levels are higher or lower than normal.
- Keeping your pain under control is important to your well-being. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you are experiencing pain.

#### **Food and Medicine Interactions**

- There are no known interactions of belzutifan with food.
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist about all other prescription medicines and over-the-counter medicines and dietary supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbs, and others) you are taking before starting this medicine as there are known medicine interactions with belzutifan. Also, check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new prescription or over-the-counter medicines, or dietary supplements to make sure that there are no interactions.
- This medicine interacts with hormonal birth control (i.e., birth control pills, skin patches, vaginal rings, injections) and affects how they work. Discuss with your doctor and/or nurse what method of birth control may be right for you during your treatment.

When to Call the Doctor



Call your doctor or nurse if you have any of these symptoms and/or any new or unusual symptoms:

- Tiredness that interferes with your daily activities
- Feeling dizzy or lightheaded
- Headache that does not go away
- Feeling that your heart is beating fast or in a not normal way (palpitations)
- Trouble breathing
- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking and/or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Throwing up more than 3 times a day
- Abnormal blood sugar
- Unusual thirst, passing urine often, headache, sweating, shakiness, irritability
- Decreased and/or very dark urine
- If you think you may be pregnant or may have impregnated your partner

# **Reproduction Warnings**

- **Pregnancy warning**: This medicine can have harmful effects on the unborn baby. Women of childbearing potential should use effective non-hormonal methods of birth control during your cancer treatment and for 1 week after stopping treatment. Men with female partners of childbearing potential should use effective methods of birth control during your cancer treatment and for 1 week after stopping treatment. Let your doctor know right away if you think you may be pregnant or may have impregnated your partner. Birth control pills (oral contraceptives) and other hormonal forms of birth control may not be effective with this medicine.
- **Breastfeeding warning**: It is not known if this medicine passes into breast milk. For this reason, women should not breastfeed during treatment and for 1 week after stopping treatment because this medicine could enter the breast milk and cause harm to a breastfeeding baby.
- Fertility warning: In men and women both, this medicine may affect your ability to have children in the future. Talk with your doctor or nurse if you plan to have children. Ask for information on sperm or egg banking.

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