

## Lenalidomide (Revlimid)

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### About This Drug

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

### Possible Side Effects

- Bone marrow suppression. This is a decrease in the number of white blood cells, red blood cells, and platelets. This may raise your risk of infection, make you tired and weak, and raise your risk of bleeding.
- Nausea
- Diarrhea (loose bowel movements)
- Constipation (unable to move bowels)
- Inflammation of your stomach and/or intestines
- Pain in your abdomen
- Fever
- Tiredness and weakness
- Swelling of your legs, ankles and/or feet
- Decreased appetite (decreased hunger)
- Muscle cramps/spasms
- Pain in your joints
- Back pain
- Feeling dizzy
- Headache
- Tremor
- Trouble sleeping
- Nosebleed
- Upper respiratory tract infection, bronchitis
- Inflammation of the nasal passages and throat
- Trouble breathing
- Cough
- Rash and itching

**Note:** Each of the side effects above was reported in 15% or greater of patients treated with lenalidomide. 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 drugs in combination. Please discuss any concerns or questions with your medical team.*

## Warnings and Precautions

- Blood clots and events such as stroke and heart attack. A blood clot in your leg may cause your leg to swell, appear red and warm, and/or cause pain. A blood clot in your lungs may cause trouble breathing, pain when breathing, and/or chest pain.
- Severe bone marrow suppression
- Changes in your liver function, which may cause liver failure and be life-threatening.
- Tumor lysis syndrome: This drug may act on the cancer cells very quickly. This may affect how your kidneys work and can be life-threatening.
- Changes in your thyroid function
- Severe allergic skin reaction which may be life-threatening. You may develop blisters on your skin that are filled with fluid or a severe red rash all over your body that may be painful.
- This drug may raise your risk of getting a second cancer, such as acute myeloid leukemia and myelodysplastic syndrome
- You may develop a syndrome called tumor flare reaction which may be life-threatening. You may have painful lymph nodes, enlarged spleen, fever, and a rash.
- This drug may make it more difficult to collect your stem cells if a stem cell transplant is part of your treatment plan.
- There is a rare increased risk of death in patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia and a risk of early death (dying sooner) in patient with mantle cell lymphoma.
- Allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis are rare but may happen in some patients. Signs of allergic reaction to this drug may be swelling of the face, feeling like your tongue or throat are swelling, trouble breathing, rash, itching, fever, chills, feeling dizzy, and/or feeling that your heart is beating in a fast or not normal way. **If this happens, do not take another dose of this drug. You should get urgent medical treatment.**

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

## Important Information

- You will need to sign up for a special program called Lenalidomide REMS when you start taking this drug. Your nurse will help you get started.
- Two negative pregnancy tests are required in women of childbearing potential prior to starting treatment. Routine pregnancy tests are required during treatment.
- Do not donate blood during your treatment and for 4 weeks after stopping your treatment.
- Men should not donate sperm during your treatment and for 4 weeks after stopping your treatment because this drug is present in semen and may cause harm to a baby.
- Let your doctor know right away if you think you may be pregnant and report any pregnancy at 1-888-423-5436.



## How to Take Your Medication

- Swallow the medicine whole with water, with or without food. Do not chew, break, or open it.
- Take this medicine at about the same time each day
- **Missed dose:** If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you think about it **ONLY** if it has been less than 12 hours since you normally take the missed dose. If it has been more than 12 hours, skip the missed dose and contact your physician. Take your next dose at the regular time. Do not take 2 doses at the same time and do not double up on the next dose.
- **Handling:** Wash your hands after handling your medicine, your caretakers should not handle your medicine with bare hands and should wear latex gloves.
- If you get any of the content of a broken capsule on your skin, you should wash the area of the skin well with soap and water right away. Call your doctor if you get a skin reaction.
- If you get the content of a broken capsule in your eyes, nose, or mouth, flush well with water.
- This drug may be present in the saliva, tears, sweat, urine, stool, vomit, semen, and vaginal secretions. Talk to your doctor and/or your nurse about the necessary precautions to take during this time.
- **Storage:** Store this medicine in the original container at room temperature.
- **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 medication 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.
- To decrease the risk of infection, wash your hands regularly.
- Avoid close contact with people who have a cold, the flu, or other infections.
- Take your temperature as your doctor or nurse tells you, and whenever you feel like you may have a fever.
- To help decrease the risk of bleeding, use a soft toothbrush. Check with your nurse before using dental floss.
- Be very careful when using knives or tools.
- Use an electric shaver instead of a razor.
- Drink plenty of fluids (a minimum of eight glasses per day is recommended).
- If you throw up or have diarrhea, you should drink more fluids so that you do not become dehydrated (lack of water in the body from losing too much fluid).
- Eat low-fiber foods that are high in protein and calories and avoid foods that can irritate your digestive tracts or lead to cramping.
- 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 are not able to move your bowels, check with your doctor or nurse before you use enemas, laxatives, or suppositories.



- Ask your doctor or nurse about medicines that are available to help stop or lessen constipation and/or diarrhea.
- To help with decreased appetite, eat small, frequent meals. Eat foods high in calories and protein, such as meat, poultry, fish, dry beans, tofu, eggs, nuts, milk, yogurt, cheese, ice cream, pudding, and nutritional supplements.
- Consider using sauces and spices to increase taste. Daily exercise, with your doctor's approval, may increase your appetite.
- If you get a rash, do not put anything on it unless your doctor or nurse says you may. Keep the area around the rash clean and dry. Ask your doctor for medicine if your rash bothers you.
- Keeping your pain under control is important to your well-being. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you are experiencing pain.
- If you have a nosebleed, sit with your head tipped slightly forward. Apply pressure by lightly pinching the bridge of your nose between your thumb and forefinger. Call your doctor if you feel dizzy or faint or if the bleeding does not stop after 10 to 15 minutes.
- To help with itching, moisturize your skin several times a day.
- Avoid sun exposure and apply sunscreen routinely when outdoors.

## Food and Drug Interactions

- There are no known interactions of lenalidomide 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 drug interactions with lenalidomide. 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.
- There are known interactions of lenalidomide with blood-thinning medicine such as warfarin. Ask your doctor what precautions you should take.

## When to Call the Doctor

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

- Fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher
- Chills
- Tiredness or weakness that interferes with your daily activities
- Feeling dizzy or lightheaded
- Easy bleeding or bruising
- Headache that does not go away
- Nosebleed that does not stop bleeding after 10-15 minutes
- Wheezing and/or trouble breathing
- Chest pain or symptoms of a heart attack. Most heart attacks involve pain in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes. The pain may go away and come back. It can feel like pressure, squeezing, fullness, or pain. Sometimes pain is felt in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw, or stomach. **If any of these symptoms last 2 minutes, call 911.**



- Symptoms of a stroke such as sudden numbness or weakness of your face, arm, or leg, mostly on one side of your body; sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden trouble walking, feeling dizzy, loss of balance or coordination; or sudden, bad headache with no known cause. **If you have any of these symptoms for 2 minutes, call 911.**
- Signs of allergic reaction: swelling of the face, feeling like your tongue or throat are swelling, trouble breathing, rash, itching, fever, chills, feeling dizzy, and/or feeling that your heart is beating in a fast or not normal way. **If this happens, call 911 for emergency care.**
- Cough that is bothersome
- Coughing up yellow, green, or bloody mucus
- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking and/or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Throwing up more than 3 times a day
- Diarrhea, 4 times in one day or diarrhea with lack of strength or a feeling of being dizzy
- No bowel movement in 3 days or when you feel uncomfortable
- Trouble falling or staying asleep
- Pain in your abdomen that does not go away
- Weight gain of 5 pounds in one week (fluid retention)
- Swelling of your legs, ankles and/or feet
- Your leg is swollen, red, warm, and/or painful
- Unexplained weight gain
- Lasting loss of appetite or rapid weight loss of five pounds in a week
- Pain that does not go away, or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Flu-like symptoms: fever, headache, muscle and joint aches, and fatigue (low energy, feeling weak)
- A new rash and/or itching or a rash that is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Signs of possible liver problems: dark urine, pale bowel movements, pain in your abdomen, feeling very tired and weak, unusual itching, or yellowing of the eyes or skin
- Signs of tumor lysis: confusion or agitation, decreased urine, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, muscle cramping, numbness and/or tingling, seizures
- If you think you may be pregnant or may have impregnated your partner

## Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** This drug can have harmful effects on the unborn baby. Women of child-bearing potential must commit to abstain from heterosexual intercourse or use 2 effective methods of birth control, one of which must be a *highly* effective method of birth control, beginning at least 4 weeks before treatment starts, during your cancer treatment, including dose interruptions, and for at least 4 weeks after stopping treatment. A highly effective method of birth control includes tubal ligation, intra-uterine device (IUD), hormonal (birth control pills, injections, patch and/or implants) or a partner's vasectomy. Stop taking lenalidomide immediately and let your doctor know right away if you think you may be pregnant, miss your menstrual period, or experience unusual menstrual bleeding.
- Men with female partners of childbearing potential should use effective methods of birth control during your cancer treatment and for at least 4 weeks after stopping treatment. You should always wear a condom even if you have undergone a successful vasectomy. Let your doctor know right away if you think you may have impregnated your partner.



- **Breastfeeding warning:** Women should not breastfeed during treatment because this drug could enter the breast milk and cause harm to a breastfeeding baby.
- **Fertility warning:** Fertility studies have not been done with this drug. Talk with your doctor or nurse if you plan to have children. Ask for information on sperm or egg banking.

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