

CLOFAZIMINE

Other NAMES: Lamprene®

WHY is this drug prescribed?

Clofazimine is an antibiotic used for the treatment of Mycobacterium avium complex (MAC) infection. It may also be used to treat a number of other conditions.

HOW should this drug be taken?

Clofazimine is available as 100 mg capsules. For the treatment of Mycobacterium avium complex (MAC), the recommended dose is 100 to 300 mg daily. It should be given in combination with other antibiotics.

Clofazimine should be taken with food to avoid an upset stomach. You should drink a full glass of water with each dose of clofazimine.

Your dosage is:

50 mg capsule

100 mg capsule

___ capsules (___mg)___ times a day

What should you do if you FORGET a dose?

If you miss a dose of clofazimine, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is time for your next dose, do not double

the dose, just carry on with your regular schedule.

What ADVERSE EFFECTS can this drug cause? What should you do about them?

Clofazimine may cause pink or red to brownish-black **skin and eye discolouration**. After you stop taking clofazimine, your skin and eye colour should return to normal. This, however, can take several months or years. If this becomes bothersome, please notify your doctor.

Clofazimine may cause **skin and eye dryness and itchiness**. You should always use a good hydrating cream to avoid skin dryness. Also, your skin may become more sensitive to the sun and sunlamps. Please consult a doctor immediately if you develop a skin rash.

Discolouration (red – brownish black) of feces, lining of the eyelids, sputum, sweat, tears and urine commonly occurs. Usually, this adverse effect does not require medical attention. However, if you wear contact lenses, you might consider wearing glasses instead to prevent discolouration of your contact lenses.

Many people develop **nausea, vomiting, stomach upset and diarrhea** while receiving clofazimine. If these effects are bothersome, please inform your doctor or pharmacist.

Rarely, clofazimine may cause **liver**

damage. Increases in liver enzymes accompanied with severe nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, bloody or black tarry stools, and yellow eyes or skin may occur. Please notify a doctor immediately if you notice these symptoms. Your doctor will check your liver enzymes when you come to the clinic for blood tests.

It is important that you keep your doctor appointments and come for your laboratory tests so that your progress can be followed.

What other PRECAUTIONS should you follow while using this drug?

Before starting clofazimine, please inform your doctor and pharmacist if you have ever had an allergic reaction to this drug in the past.

As this drug may cause some people to become dizzy, drowsy or less alert than normal, you should make sure you know how you react to this drug before you drive, use machinery or do anything else that could be dangerous if you are dizzy or are not alert.

Clofazimine can make your skin more sensitive to sunlight or sunlamps than usual. Therefore, wear protective clothing and use a sunscreen with at least an SPF of 15 whenever you are exposed to the sun. You should avoid sunlamps. Ask your pharmacist to help you select a sunscreen that protects against drug-sun reactions.

Clofazimine may interfere with certain drugs. In particular, phenytoin (Dilantin™) and fosphenytoin (Cerebyx®). Inform your doctor and pharmacist of all prescribed and non-prescribed drugs you are taking. As well, you should inform them of natural products you are taking. If you wish to start a new drug or natural product, please consult with your pharmacist before doing so.

The safety of clofazimine during pregnancy has not been established. Please inform your doctor if you are pregnant. Clofazimine should only be given to pregnant women if the potential benefits of treatment outweigh the potential risks to the child. Breastfeeding is NOT recommended while you are receiving clofazimine.

How should this drug be STORED?

Clofazimine should be stored in a cool (15-30°C) dry place, protected from light and well out of the reach of children.

Ensure that the drug has not expired by checking the expiry date ("EXP") shown on the outside of the package.

Do not store where there is heat and moisture (for example, in the bathroom or near the stove) as the drug may become less active.

If you have any questions or concerns about this drug or if you are experiencing adverse effects, please discuss them with your pharmacist, doctor or nurse.

Write questions or concerns down to ensure they are addressed.

The following pharmacist is available to answer questions:

Pharmacist: _____

Telephone: _____

CLOFAZIMINE

MEDICATION

FACT SHEET

Reference: Clofazimine (Lamprene®) International Package Leaflet. **Novartis Pharma AG, Basel, Switzerland**, 2005. Prepared by the Ontario HIV Pharmacy Professional Specialty Group, 2003. Reviewed 2009.

Additional medication fact sheets and updates may be found at: www.hivclinic.ca