Brilinta™

Ticagrelor 60 mg or 90 mg Film Coated Tablets.

CONSUMER MEDICINE INFORMATION

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some of the common questions people ask about Brilinta. It does not contain all the information that is known about Brilinta. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist. All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor will have weighed the risks of you taking Brilinta against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist. Keep this leaflet with the medicine. You may need to read it again.

What Brilinta is used for

Brilinta in combination with aspirin is to be used in adults only. You have been given Brilinta because you have had:

- a heart attack, or
- unstable angina (angina or chest pain that is not well controlled)

Brilinta reduces the chances of having another heart attack or of dying from a disease related to your heart or blood vessels.

How Brilinta works

Brilinta contains the active substance called ticagrelor. This belongs to a group of medicines called anti-platelet medicines.

Brilinta affects cells called ‘platelets’ (also called thrombocytes). These very small blood cells help stop bleeding by clumping together to plug tiny holes in blood vessels that are cut or damaged. However, platelets can also form clots inside diseased blood vessels in the heart and brain. This can be very dangerous because:

- the clot can cut off the blood supply completely - this can cause a heart attack (myocardial infarction), or
- the clot can partly block the blood vessels to the heart - this reduces the blood flow to the heart and can cause chest pain which comes and goes (called ‘unstable angina’)

Brilinta helps stop the clumping of platelets. This reduces the chance of a blood clot forming that can reduce blood flow.

This medicine is only available with a doctor’s prescription.

Before you use Brilinta

When you must not use it

Do not take Brilinta if:

- You are allergic to ticagrelor or any of the other ingredients of Brilinta (listed in Product Description)
- You are bleeding now
- You have severe liver disease
- You are taking any of the following medicines: ketoconazole (used to treat fungal infections), clarithromycin (used to treat bacterial infections), nefazodone (an antidepressant), ritonavir and atazanavir (used to treat HIV infection and AIDS)
- You have had a stroke caused by bleeding in the brain
Do not take Brilinta if any of the above applies to you. If you are not sure, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Brilinta.

Take special care with Brilinta
Check with your doctor, pharmacist or dentist before taking Brilinta if:

- You have an increased risk of bleeding because of:
  - a recent serious injury
  - recent surgery (including dental work)
  - you have a condition that affects blood clotting
  - recent bleeding from your stomach or gut (such as a stomach ulcer or colon ‘polyps’).
- You are due to have surgery (including dental work) at any time while taking Brilinta. This is because of the increased risk of bleeding. Your doctor may want you to stop taking Brilinta 5 days prior to surgery
- Your heart rate is abnormally low (usually lower than 60 beats per minute) and you do not already have in place a device that paces your heart (pacemaker)
- You have asthma or other lung problem or breathing difficulties
- You have had a blood test that showed more than the usual amount of uric acid

If any of the above apply to you (or you are not sure), talk to your doctor, pharmacist or dentist before taking Brilinta.

Children and adolescents
Brilinta is not recommended for children and adolescents under 18 years.

Taking other medicines
Please tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines.

This includes medicines that you buy without a prescription, dietary supplements and herbal remedies. This is because Brilinta can affect the way some medicines work and some medicines can have an effect on Brilinta.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any of the following medicines:

- more than 40 mg daily of either simvastatin or lovastatin (medicines used to treat high cholesterol)
- rifampicin (an antibiotic), phenytoin, carbamazepine and phenobarbital (used to control seizures), digoxin (used to treat heart failure), cyclosporin (used to lessen your body’s defences), quinidine and diltiazem (used to treat abnormal heart rhythms), beta blockers and verapamil (used to treat high blood pressure)

In particular, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any of the following medicines that increase your risk of bleeding:

- ‘oral anticoagulants’ often referred to as ‘blood thinners’ which include warfarin
- non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (abbreviated as NSAIDs) often taken as pain killers such as ibuprofen and naproxen
- selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (abbreviated as SSRIs) taken as antidepressants such as paroxetine, sertraline and citalopram
- other medicines such as ketoconazole (used to treat fungal infections), clarithromycin (used to treat bacterial infections), nefazodone, (an antidepressant), ritonavir and atazanavir (used to treat HIV infection and AIDS), cisapride (used to treat heartburn), ergot alkaloids (used to treat migraines and headaches)
Also tell your doctor that you are taking Brilinta, because if your doctor gives you fibrinolytics, often called ‘clot dissolvers’, such as streptokinase or alteplase, you may have an increased risk of bleeding.

**Taking Brilinta with food and drink**
You can take Brilinta with or without food.

**Pregnancy and breast-feeding**
The dose of Brilinta you take will depend on your condition. Your doctor will tell you the correct dose to use. If you had a recent heart attack or unstable angina (angina or chest pain that is not well controlled). The starting dose is two tablets at the same time (loading dose of 180 mg). This dose will usually be given to you in the hospital. After this starting dose, the usual dose is one tablet of 90 mg twice a day for 12 months unless your doctor tells you differently. After one year your doctor may continue your treatment with a lower dose of 60 mg tablet twice a day.

If you had a heart attack over a year ago, the usual dose is one 60 mg tablet twice a day. Continue taking Brilinta as long as your doctor tells you.

Take Brilinta around the same time every day (for example, one tablet in the morning and one in the evening). Your doctor will usually also tell you to take low dose aspirin. This is a substance present in many medicines used to prevent blood clotting. Your doctor will tell you how much to take (usually between 75-150 mg daily).

**How to take Brilinta**
- You can take the tablet with or without food
- You can check when you last took a tablet of Brilinta by looking on the blister. There is a sun (for the morning) and a moon (for the evening). This will tell you whether you have taken the dose.

**If you have trouble swallowing**
If you have trouble swallowing the tablet(s) you can crush them and mix with water as follows:
- crush the tablet(s) to a fine powder
- pour the powder into half a glass of water
- stir and drink immediately
- to make sure that there is no medicine left, rinse the empty glass with another half a glass of water and drink it

**If you take more Brilinta than you should**
If you take more Brilinta than you should, talk to a doctor or go to hospital straight away. Take the medicine pack with you. You may be at increased risk of bleeding.

**If you forget to take Brilinta**
- If you forget to take a dose, just take your next dose as normal
- Do not take a double dose (two doses at the same time) to make up for the forgotten dose.

**If you stop taking Brilinta**
Do not stop taking Brilinta without talking to your doctor. Take Brilinta on a regular basis and for as long as your doctor keeps prescribing it. If you stop taking Brilinta, it may increase your chances of having another heart attack or dying from a disease related to your heart or blood vessels. If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

### Side Effects

Like all medicines, Brilinta can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. The following side effects may happen with this medicine.

**See a doctor straight away if you notice any of the following – you may need urgent medical treatment:**
- **Bleeding into the brain or inside the skull is an uncommon side effect, and may cause signs of a stroke such as:**
  - sudden numbness or weakness of your arm, leg or face, especially if only on one side of the body
  - sudden confusion, difficulty speaking or understanding others
  - sudden difficulty in walking or loss of balance or co-ordination
  - suddenly feeling dizzy or sudden severe headache with no known cause.

- **Bleeding** – some bleeding is common. However, severe bleeding is uncommon, but can be life threatening. Bleeding of many different kinds can be increased, for example:
  - bleeding that is severe or that you cannot control
  - unexpected bleeding or bleeding that lasts a long time
  - blood in your urine
  - black stools or red blood in your stools
  - visual disturbance caused by blood in your eye
  - coughing up or vomiting blood
  - bleeding into joints causing painful swelling

**Discuss with your doctor if you notice any of the following:**
- **Feeling short of breath** - this is very common (affects more than 10 in 100 people). It might be due to your heart disease or another cause, or it might be a side effect of Brilinta. Brilinta related breathlessness is generally mild and characterised as a sudden, unexpected hunger for air usually occurring at rest and may appear in the first weeks of therapy and for many people
may disappear while treatment is continued. If you have asthma or COPD, this is more likely. If your feeling of shortness of breath gets worse or lasts a long time, tell your doctor. Your doctor will decide if it needs treatment or further investigations.

Other possible side effects

Very common (may affect more than 10 in 100 people)
- An increase in the level of uric acid in the blood (as seen in tests)
- Bleeding caused by blood disorder

Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)
- Bruising, bleeding into the skin
- Nosebleed
- Feeling dizzy or like the room is spinning
- Diarrhoea
- Feeling sick (nausea)
- Itching
- Severe pain and swelling in your joints – these are signs of gout
- Feeling dizzy or light headed, or having blurred vision – these are signs of low blood pressure
- Bleeding after surgery or from cuts (e.g. while shaving) and wounds that is more than normal
- Bleeding from your stomach lining (ulcer)
- Bleeding gums

Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)
- Confusion
- Blood in your eye
- Vaginal bleeding that is heavier, or happens at different times, than your normal period (menstrual) bleeding
- Bleeding from a tumour
- Blood in your ear
- Bleeding into joints and muscles causing painful swelling

If any of the side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist, but do not stop taking Brilinta until you have spoken to them.

How to store Brilinta

Keep out of the reach and sight of children.
Do not use Brilinta after the expiry date, which is stated on the blister and carton after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.
Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

Product description

What Brilinta contains
- The active substance is ticagrelor. Each film-coated tablet contains 60 or 90 mg of ticagrelor.
- The other ingredients are:
  - Tablet core: mannitol, calcium hydrogen phosphate dihydrate, sodium starch glycolate, hydroxypropyl-cellulose, magnesium stearate
  - Tablet film coating: hypromellose, titanium dioxide, talc (90 mg only), polyethylene glycol 400, and ferric oxide yellow (90 mg only), ferric oxide black (60 mg only) ferric oxide red (60 mg only).
What Brilinta looks like and contents of the pack
60mg: Film-coated tablet (tablet): The tablets are round, biconvex, pink, film-coated marked with a “60” above “T” on one side and plain on the other.

90mg: Film-coated tablet (tablet): The tablets are round, biconvex, yellow, film-coated marked with a “90” above “T” on one side and plain on the other.

Brilinta 60 mg and 90 mg are available in calendar blisters (with sun/moon symbols) in cartons of 14 and 56 tablets.

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