Deferasirox (De FER a sir ox)
Patient Education

US Brand Names: **Exjade**
Therapeutic Category: Chelating agent

**What is this medicine used for?**
Treatment of chronic iron overload due to blood transfusions.

**How does it work?**
Deferasirox works by binding to iron which is then excreted through the feces.

**What should my doctor or nurse know before I take this medication?**
- If you are allergic to any medicines.
- If you are taking other over the counter or prescription medicines, including vitamins and herbal remedies.
- If you are, or may be pregnant.
- If you are breast feeding.
- If you have kidney problems.
- If you have liver problems.
- If you have heart problems.

**How is this drug given?**
Deferasirox is taken orally once a day on an empty stomach, 30 minutes before food. **Do not chew or swallow whole tablets.** Melt tablets in water, orange or apple juice (use 3.5 ounces if your dose is less than 1 gram; 7 ounces if your dose is greater than 1 gram); stir to form suspension and drink entire contents. Rinse what is left with more fluid; drink. Do not take at the same time as aluminum-containing antacids (AlternaGel® or Dialume®)

**What are the general precautions when taking this medicine?**
- Talk with your doctor or nurse before taking aspirin, aspirin-containing products, over the counter or prescription medications, including vitamins and herbal remedies.
- Drink 8 to 10 glasses of non-caffeinated liquid every day (unless told otherwise by your doctor or nurse).
- If you or your partner can get pregnant, use birth control during your treatment. Once completing treatment, discuss the timing for stopping birth control measures with your provider (pt. teaching sheet fertility).
What are the common side effects of this medicine?

- Nausea/vomiting and diarrhea. Stomach and intestinal irritation, ulceration and in rare cases life threatening bleeding.
- Vision changes.
- Skin rash (dose-related). The rash is usually mild-to-moderate and may go away without intervention.
- Changes in liver function and in rare cases liver failure. Your liver function will be monitored during treatment. Avoid use of over the counter pain medications such as Tylenol, Aleve, Motrin, Advil, etc..
- Changes in kidney function. Your kidney function will be monitored during treatment. Drink lots of fluids, unless instructed to restrict fluid intake.

Danger signals to report immediately to your doctor or nurse:

- Signs or symptoms of infection. This includes a fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or more, chills, severe sore throat, ear or sinus pain, cough, increased or change in color of mucous or phlegm, mouth sores, wound that will not heal, painful urination, or anal itching or pain.
- Severe nausea, vomiting or diarrhea not controlled by medication.
- Not able to eat or drink.
- Feeling extremely tired, weak, dizzy or light headed.
- Severe rash.
- Change in vision or hearing.
- Weight gain of greater than 3 to 5 lbs/week, swelling of feet, legs or arms, decrease in urine output, shortness of breath, or yellowing of skin or eyes.

How should I store this medicine?
Keep all medicine out of reach of children & pets.
Consult your pharmacist for instructions on storage and disposal of this medication.

What do I do if I miss a dose?
Contact your doctor or nurse immediately.

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