Eltrombopag (el TROM boe pag)
Patient Education

US Brand Names:  Promacta
Therapeutic Category:  Colony Stimulating Factor; Thrombopoietic Agent

What is this medicine used for?
Treatment of low platelets in patients with chronic immune thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP) at risk for bleeding who have had low response to corticosteroids, immune globulin, or splenectomy

How does it work?
Increases platelet counts by binding to and turning on a receptor on specific cells in your bone marrow. This binding increases growth of cells that produce platelets.

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 liver problems.

How is this drug given?
- This medicine is taken by mouth daily
- Take on an empty stomach, 1 hour before or 2 hours after a meal. Allow at least 4 hours after taking this medication before eating dairy products, foods high in calcium, or minerals.

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.
- 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.

What are the common side effects of this medicine?
- Rebound thrombocytopenia:  When therapy is stopped, thrombocytopenia may worsen. Severity may be greater than pretreatment level.
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.

- Worsening or new formation of cataracts.
- May increase the risk for blood cancers.
- Blood clots (Thromboembolism) may occur with large increase in platelet levels.

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 greater, chills, severe sore throat, ear or sinus pain, cough, increased sputum or change in color, mouth sores, wound that will not heal, painful urination, or anal itching or pain.
- Severe nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea not controlled by medication.
- Not able to eat or drink.
- Bleeding from your nose, mouth, gums, or in your urine or bowel movements. Bruising that does not heal.
- Feeling extremely tired, weak, dizzy or light headed.
- Weight gain of greater than 3 to 5 lbs/week, swelling of extremities, 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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