

AMBRISENTAN (Volibris®)

What is ambrisentan (Volibris®) used for?

Ambrisentan (Volibris®) is a prescription medicine used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). PAH is defined by high blood pressure in the lungs resulting from the pulmonary arteries—the blood vessels that carry blood from the heart to the lungs—becoming narrowed or scarred.

How does it work?

Ambrisentan (Volibris®) is an endothelin receptor antagonist (ERA) that lowers blood pressure in the lungs, making it easier for the heart to pump more effectively. Ambrisentan (Volibris®) helps prevent blood vessels from narrowing by blocking endothelin, a protein that causes vasoconstriction, in the pulmonary arteries. Taking this medication may slow PAH progression and alleviate symptoms.

What do I need to know?

Contraindications:

Do not take ambrisentan (Volibris®) if you:

- Are allergic to ambrisentan (Volibris®) or any of its ingredients
- Are breastfeeding
- Have severe liver disease

If you are pregnant or may become pregnant, contact your medical team right away; this medication is known to cause serious birth defects.

Important information:

This medication can cause liver problems and anemia; blood work will be done regularly for the first year of treatment.

Drug interactions

The following drugs may interact with ambrisentan (Volibris®). Please note that this is not a comprehensive list of drug interactions.

Please speak to your medical team before starting any new medication.

Immunosuppressant medications —
e.g. cyclosporine (Neoral®, Sandimmune®)

How should I take ambrisentan (Volibris®)?

Take one 5 mg tablet once daily, with or without food. The dose may be increased to 10 mg once daily.

Missed dose:

If you miss a dose of ambrisentan (Volibris®), take your tablet as soon as you remember. Do not take two doses at the same time. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose; just take the next dose at your regular time.

Please Note:

Tell your medical team about ALL the medicines you are taking including over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, minerals, natural supplements, and alternative medications.

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What are common side effects?

Some patients may experience side effects when taking this medication. If the side effects are severe or bothersome, please contact your medical team. Side effects may include:

- Headache
- Flushing
- Nasal congestion, sore throat, and/or sinusitis
- Fluid retention (swelling)

When should I notify my PH clinic or seek medical attention?

Contact your medical team or seek medical attention immediately if you develop:

- Symptoms of worsening PH, including: difficulty breathing, fluid retention or weight gain, and/or dizziness or passing out
- An allergic reaction, including: swelling of the mouth, tongue, face, and throat; itching; rash; and/or difficulty breathing

If you take more than your prescribed dose, contact your medical team immediately, even if you feel well.

Do not stop taking ambrisentan (Volibris®) unless advised by your medical team.

Additional information:

Store out of reach of children at 15°–30° C.

Do not use expired medication.

Do not throw away any medication via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medications you no longer require.

For more information please see full product monograph.



PULMONARY HYPERTENSION
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CPHPN

To learn more about pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) and available treatments, please visit www.PHACanada.ca/learnmore.

This educational resource was developed by the Canadian Pulmonary Hypertension Professionals Network (CPHPN), a PHA Canada network that brings together PH nurses from across the country to enhance nursing care in the field through leadership, education, and professional development.

The information provided in this resource is for educational purposes only. Please speak with your medical team to establish a personalized treatment plan and discuss any changes to your lifestyle or course of treatment.