

Pirfenidone (Esbriet) Information Sheet

What Is Pirfenidone?

Pirfenidone is a treatment for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), a lung condition characterized by scar tissue formation. It works by slowing the progression of the disease by reducing scar tissue development.

Who Should Use Pirfenidone?

If deemed appropriate by your Physician, Pirfenidone can be used in adults diagnosed with IPF. The suitability of this medication depends on individual health conditions and medical history.

Important Precautions

Before starting Pirfenidone, inform your healthcare provider if you:

- Are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.
- Have a history of severe liver or kidney disease.
- Are undergoing dialysis.

Medication Interactions

Pirfenidone may interact with other medications, reducing its effectiveness. Avoid smoking while taking Pirfenidone and avoid combining it with Ciprofloxacin or Fluvoxamine. Be sure to disclose all medications and supplements to your healthcare provider.

Administration and Dosage

The dosage will be determined by your healthcare provider, starting with a low dose and gradually increasing, eventually taking a dose of 3 tablets three times a day. It is recommended to take Pirfenidone with breakfast, lunch and dinner to minimize nausea. Avoid grapefruit products while on this medication.

Possible Side Effects

Common side effects include fatigue, nausea, decreased appetite, weight loss, and photosensitivity rash. In order to avoid a potential photosensitivity reaction, it is recommended that you wear protective clothing and sunscreen when outdoors. The medication is processed by the liver, so monthly blood work monitoring and avoiding alcohol is recommended.

Contact Information

For questions or concerns about Pirfenidone or its side effects, contact your pharmacy or your prescribing physician. In emergencies, seek immediate medical attention.

Disclaimer

This information sheet is provided for educational purposes and does not replace professional medical advice. Please consult your healthcare provider for personalized guidance regarding this medication.