

Nintedanib (OFEV™)

Information for patients



UHN

Read this medicine fact sheet to learn about:

- What this medicine is
- Who it is for
- How to take it
- What side effects to watch for

What is nintedanib?

Nintedanib [pronounced nin-ten-da-nib] is in a group of medicines called **tyrosine-kinase inhibitors** and **anti-fibrotic agents**. Nintedanib affects your body's immune system and reduces the amount of fibrosis (scarring) in the lungs.

Nintedanib is one of two medicines that are approved in Canada to treat Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF).

Another name for this medicine is OFEV™.

Is nintedanib right for me?

Your doctor recommends this medicine for your treatment. But, some patients should not take nintedanib.

Tell your doctor:

- If you are allergic to nintedanib or any other medicines
- If you have an allergy to peanuts
- If you have an allergy to soy products
- If you have ever had serious liver disease or kidney disease. Patients on dialysis should not use nintedanib
- If you are pregnant

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What do I need to know when taking this medicine?

Nintedanib can interact with other medicines and health products. This means it might not work well with these products.

Tell your doctor:

- About all the medicines, supplements and herbal products you are taking. Tell your pharmacist too.
- If you are taking erythromycin (Biaxin), ketoconazole, rifampicin (Rifadin, Rofact), phenytoin (Dilantin), St. John's wart or carbamazepine (Tegretol). You should not take these medicines while you are taking nintedanib.
- If you have ever had serious heart disease and high blood pressure.
- If you have ever had bleeding or clotting problems. Tell your doctor if there is a history of major bleeding in your family.
- If you recently had, or will be having surgery. You should not start nintedanib within 4 weeks of abdominal (stomach) surgery.
- If you plan to become pregnant. Use birth control to be sure you or your partner will not become pregnant while you are taking this medicine.
- Do not breastfeed while taking this medicine.

What are the side effects of this medicine?

Nintedanib may cause side effects. Serious side effects are not common, but can happen if you are taking this medicine.

Tell your doctor if you have any of these symptoms:

- diarrhea (watery bowel movements)
- nausea (feeling like you need to throw up) or vomiting
- abdominal (stomach) pain
- loss of appetite
- weight loss
- yellowish skin colour
- chest pain
- high blood pressure

How can I reduce any side effects?

Take nintedanib with food. Swallow the pills whole with water because chewing or crushing the pills can give you a stomach ache and diarrhea.

Nintedanib can give you diarrhea (watery bowel movements). If you have diarrhea while on this medicine:

- Drink fluids to prevent dehydration
- Use Immodium (loperamide) to control diarrhea. You can buy Immodium at your local pharmacy. Take 1 Immodium pill after each watery bowel movement. You do not need to take Immodium once your bowel movements go back to normal. You can take Immodium up to 8 times a day.
- If you are taking the maximum dose of Immodium (8 pills a day), stop taking nintedanib and call your doctor.

What follow-up care will I need?

Your doctor will order lab tests to see how well nintendanib is working. These tests can also help your doctor check for any side effects.

While you take this medicine, you will have regular tests to check your liver enzymes.

What if I miss a dose?

Take your next dose at your usual time. Do not take two doses at the same time.

Who can I call if I have question or concerns?

Please talk to your Interstitial Lung Disease doctor or nurse. They can answer any questions or concerns about nintedanib.

This fact sheet was created by the University Health Network Pharmacy Department. It is for your information only. It shouldn't replace talking with your pharmacist. Please talk to your pharmacist or other health care professional if you have any questions about this medicine.