

Zolinza (vorinostat) basics

Helps treat blood cancers of the skin. Zolinza (vorinostat) can possibly help treat your condition if you have failed to respond to 2 other chemotherapy medications, but you will need to do blood tests frequently at least once a month.

What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.



Tips from pharmacists

- Take Zolinza (vorinostat) with food.
- Don't open, crush, break, or chew the capsules.
- Avoid direct skin contact with the contents of crushed or broken capsules.
- Stay hydrated by drinking at least 2 liters of fluids everyday, while you are taking Zolinza (vorinostat).
- Tell your doctor right away if you experience unusual swelling, pain, or redness in your leg since this may potentially mean you have developed a blood clot.
- If you are a diabetic, your doctor might have you test your blood sugar levels more often.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Low blood cell counts

Zolinza (vorinostat) can cause your platelets and red blood cells to drop to abnormally low levels which can be life-threatening. Your cancer doctor will have you do regular blood tests to make sure you're healthy enough to keep taking Zolinza (vorinostat). Tell your doctor right away if you have unusual bleeding or bruising, more tiredness than usual, trouble breathing, or your skin appears pale.

Stomach problems

Zolinza (vorinostat) can cause stomach problems such as nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Your doctor might have you take additional medications to prevent these side effects. Also, be sure to drink at least 2 liters of fluids a day to help prevent dehydration. Talk to your doctor right away if you experience signs of dehydration including dry skin or mouth, unusual sleepiness, and dizziness.

Increased risk of blood clots

Zolinza (vorinostat) can rarely increase your risk of getting a serious blood clot which can lead to complications such as stroke or a heart attack. Call your doctor and get medical help right away if you experience chest pain, shortness of breath, trouble speaking, numbness, or pain in your leg.