Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand
Waitaha Canterbury

TOLCAPONE

tol-kah-pone

What does it do?

Tolcapone is used to treat Parkinson's disease. It is used with another medicine called levodopa. *Tolcapone* helps more levodopa get into your brain.

Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have liver or mental health problems.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

How should you take it?

Take *tolcapone* regularly as directed with a glass of water. You can take it with or without food.

Do not stop taking *tolcapone* suddenly without talking to your doctor first.

What if you forget a dose?

If it is nearly time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take your next dose at the usual time. Otherwise, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Do not take two doses at the same time.

Can you take other medicines?

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

What side effects might you notice?

Side Effects	Recommended action
Symptoms of liver problems including: yellow skin or eyes, itching, dark urine, pale bowel motions, abdominal pain	Tell your doctor immediately
Squirming or wriggling movement (such as head wobble) Seeing, hearing or feeling things that aren't really there Suddenly falling asleep	Tell your doctor
Drowsiness Diarrhoea, loss of appetite, dry mouth or throat Sweating	Tell your doctor if troublesome
Lightheaded or dizzy after standing up	Stand up slowly. If it continues, or is severe, tell your doctor
Change in urine colour (red/brown)	This is harmless
Nausea, vomiting	Can happen when you first start but should improve. Try taking with a snack such as a cracker or a biscuit. Tell your doctor if doesn't improve.

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

Other information:

- *Tolcapone* can impair your ability to do tasks such as driving or using machines. Alcohol makes this worse. Discuss your risk with your health professional. See Are you safe to drive?
- You will need regular blood tests while taking *tolcapone* to check if it is causing problems with your liver.