

SELEXIPAG (Uptravi®)

What is selexipag (Uptravi®) used for?

Selexipag (Uptravi®) 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?

Selexipag (Uptravi®) is an oral **IP receptor agonist** that lowers blood pressure in the lungs, making it easier for the heart to pump more effectively.

Selexipag (Uptravi®) stimulates the IP prostacyclin receptor in the pulmonary arteries to cause vasodilation (relaxation of the blood vessels).

Taking this medication may slow the progression of pulmonary arterial hypertension and alleviate symptoms.

What do I need to know?

Do not take selexipag (Uptravi®) if you:

- Are allergic to selexipag (Uptravi®) or any of its ingredients
- Have pulmonary veno-occlusive disease (PVOD)
- Have low blood pressure
- Have liver or kidney problems
- Are breastfeeding
- Have an overactive thyroid
- Are taking strong CYP2C8 inhibitors.

If you are pregnant or may become pregnant, contact your medical team right away.

How should I take selexipag (Uptravi®)?

Selexipag (Uptravi®) is a tablet you take by mouth, morning and evening, with or without food.

Do not split, crush, or chew the tablet.

During the dosage adjustment period (titration), the dose is increased weekly. The highest dose you can tolerate will become your maintenance dose. Refer to the titration schedule your medical team gave you.

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 and/or jaw pain
- Aching joints
- Muscle or back pain
- Diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, or stomach ache
- Flushing of the face.

Drug interactions

The following drugs may interact with selexipag (Uptravi®):

- **Antibiotics**, e.g. rifampin (Rofact®)
- **CYP2C8 inhibitors**, e.g. gemfibrozil (Lopid®), celecoxib (Celebrex®), clopidogrel (Plavix®), felodipine (Plendil®, Renedil®), irbesartan (Avapro®), losartan (Cozaar®), leflunomide (Arava®), rabeprazole (Pariet®), rosiglitazone (Avandia®), pioglitazone (Actos®), tamoxifen (Nolvadex®), teriflunomide (Aubagio®), trimethoprim (Proloprim®).

This is not a comprehensive list of drug interactions.

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

Speak to your medical team before starting any new medication.

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When should I notify my pulmonary hypertension clinic or seek medical attention?

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

Symptoms of worsening pulmonary hypertension:

- Difficulty breathing
- Fluid retention or weight gain
- Dizziness or passing out.

An allergic reaction:

- Swelling of the mouth, tongue, face, or throat
- Itching
- Rash
- Difficulty breathing.

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

Missed doses

If you miss a dose of selexipag (Uptravi®), take your dose (within six hours) 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.

Do not stop taking selexipag (Uptravi®) unless advised by your medical team.

Additional information

- Store out of reach of children.
- Store at room temperature (15°–30° C).
- Do not use expired medication.
- Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medications you no longer require. Do not throw away any medication or flush it down the toilet.

For more information, please see [the full product monograph](#).



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



PULMONARY HYPERTENSION
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To learn more about pulmonary arterial hypertension, please visit www.phacanada.ca

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.