

MEDICATION NAME:	ELTROMBOPAG BRAND: PROMACTA, REVOLADE.
HOW IS IT GIVEN:	Oral tablet or suspension taken once daily.
HOW DOES IT WORK:	Binds to the thrombopoietin receptor on megakaryocytes, which stimulates platelet production.
COMMON DOSING REGIMENS:	50 mg once daily for most adults. Lower doses may be needed for patients with liver impairment and some patients of Asian ancestry. <u>Maximum Dose:</u> 75 mg per day. <u>Dose adjustments:</u> made to maintain a platelet count between 50 - 150 x 10 ⁹ /l depending on signs, symptoms and activity level. Dose reduction indicated for platelet count >250 x 10 ⁹ /L. ASA or another drug may be indicated for some patients with a high platelet count to reduce the risk of thrombosis.
COMMON SIDE EFFECTS:	Nausea, increased liver enzymes, headache.
RARE BUT SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS:	Platelet count may drop suddenly if drug stopped abruptly. Thrombosis (blood clots), hepatotoxicity (liver injury), and bone marrow reticulosis (fibrous scarring) have been reported but are rare.
TYPICAL TIME TO RESPONSE:	1-3 weeks.
LIKELIHOOD OF INITIAL RESPONSE:	Approximately 60-90% of patients have an initial response (platelet count >50 x 10 ⁹ /L).
LIKELIHOOD OF LONG-TERM RESPONSE (3-5 YEARS):	Approximately 80% of patients who respond initially maintain a platelet count >50 x 10 ⁹ /L if treatment is continued. The prevalence of sustained remission off treatment has not been established.
OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:	Must be taken on an empty stomach 1h before a meal and 2h before calcium containing foods OR 2h after a meal and 4h after foods with calcium. Calcium will reduce the performance of the drug. CBC weekly until stable dose is established; then testing may be less frequent. Regular monitoring of liver enzymes is recommended. Should not be used in pregnancy.

References:

1. Gonzalez-Porras, J., and Bastia, J.M. (2018). Eltrombopag in immune thrombocytopenia: efficacy review and update on drug safety. Therapeutic Advances in Drug Safety 9(3):263-285.
2. Platelet Disorder Support Association <https://pdsa.org/platelet-growth-factors.html>
3. Promacta <https://www.us.promacta.com/>