

# SIDE EFFECT MANAGEMENT FOR:

## Zepatier

Prescribing: Elbasvir 50mg & Grazoprevir 100mg

## Ribapak/Moderiba (Ribavirin)

Prescribing: Weight based dosing



### Fatigue:

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- Drink plenty of fluids, mainly consisting of water: 2-4 liters of liquids per day, unless otherwise instructed by your doctor. Staying hydrated helps minimize fatigue. The bed is better saved for night-time to sleep so try to find somewhere where you can stretch out and relax other than your bed. At least try to move your joints regularly, because even this minimum exercise is better than nothing. Rest and pace yourself.
- Rest in the early stages of the illness, but avoid complete bed rest unless absolutely necessary.
- Cautiously experiment to determine the level of activity (physical and mental) you can manage without causing fatigue.
- Write down your symptoms to see how they fluctuate in relation to your activity levels. This should help you to work out how much you can do.
- Do not be deterred by feelings of healthy tiredness (without nausea or prolonged pain), which after unaccustomed activity is normal and beneficial.
- You should however stop if you experience feelings described by some as 'flu-like' symptoms, or if prolonged pain reoccurs.
- When you feel that these feelings are well past, start your activities again at a level you can cope with and gradually build up.
- The symptoms generally fluctuate; take advantage of those days when you have more energy by doing some of the normal things you did before.

### Decreased appetite:

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- Focus on eating just one large meal per day (breakfast), with light snacks until night and have a light dinner.
- Eating frequent small meals can be helpful, and are usually easier on the stomach than large meals. To ensure you are getting enough nutrients from food, meals should be high in calories and protein. You may also want to try liquid protein drinks.

### Depression:

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- Speak with your doctor's office.

### Abdominal Pain:

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- Speak with your doctor's office.

### Headache:

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- Tylenol (acetaminophen) 2000mg max per day (4 extra strength tablets max per day)
- Apply ice packs or heat on your neck and head.
- Gently massage the muscles of your neck and scalp.
- Use relaxation exercises.
- Take aspirin if acetaminophen is intolerable or does not work.
- Use a decongestant medication, if you have nasal congestion.
- Reduce emotional and physical stressors, such as anger, eyestrain, or continuous loud noise.
- Avoid foods that may trigger headaches, such as aged cheeses, chocolate, nuts, red wine, alcohol, avocados, figs, raisins, or pickled foods.

### Nausea:

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- Kaopectate, Pepto-Bismol, Bonine (Meclizine), Nausea, Saltine crackers, Ginger Ale tea/soda/candy.

### Itching:

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- Antihistamine such as Benadryl, or a non-sedating antihistamine such as an allergy pill (Claritin, Allegra, or Zyrtec).

### Rash:

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- Hydrocortisone cream, Benadryl cream, Calamine lotion

### Difficulty Breathing:

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- You need appropriate periods of rest before 3 p.m., good hydration and nutrition and regular medical care. If symptoms do not improve, contact your doctor.

### Muscle Aches & Joint Pain:

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- Tylenol (take into consideration other medication that may contain acetaminophen). Moderate exercise boosts the body's natural production of serotonin (the mood-enhancing brain chemical). It also improves blood flow to muscles, releases stress and tightness, improves sleep, all of which helps relieve pain.

## Diarrhea:

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- Imodium, tucks or baby wipes (helps with irritation)
- Drinking clear fluids like water, broth, or electrolyte beverages (e.g. Pedialyte) to prevent becoming dehydrated.

## Constipation:

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- Make sure you are eating enough fiber in your diet, which makes stool bulkier and softer so it's easier to pass. Gradually increase the amount of fiber in your diet until you're getting at least 20 to 35 grams of fiber daily.
  - Bran and other whole grains found in cereals, breads, and brown rice
  - Vegetables such as Brussels sprouts, carrots, and asparagus
  - Fresh fruits, or dried fruits such as raisins, apricots, and prunes
  - Beans
- Do not skip meals.
- Avoid processed or fast foods, such as white breads, pastries, doughnuts, sausage, fast-food burgers, potato chips, and french fries
- Drink 8 to 16 cups of liquids, mainly water.
- Miralax, Senakot, or Colace as directed on the bottle.
- Do not take any other laxatives or medicines before talking with your doctor. This includes mineral oil. Only take a laxative as often as your doctor recommends. Usually, you take them with meals and at bed time. You can mix powder laxatives with milk or fruit juice to make them taste better.
- Always drink plenty of water (8 to 16 cups a day) when you are using laxatives.
- Moderate to vigorous exercise for 30 to 45 minutes most days of the week.
- Call the providers office if you:
  - Have not had a bowel movement in 3 days
  - Are bloated or have pain in your stomach
  - Feel nauseous or throw up
  - Have blood in your stool

## Birth Control:

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- Oral contraceptive and barrier control method must be used during the course of therapy and six months post therapy [when taking ribavirin].

## Herbal supplements:

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- Do not take St. John's Wart. There are no additional studies with other herbal supplements.

## Irritability/Agitation/Nervousness:

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- Irritability is something you can partially control. Irritation from those that are physically close to you requires you to simply learn to accept your own irritation and not act on it.
- Always communicate: You may be embarrassed or ashamed when you have anxiety/irritability, but the person close to you needs to know. This is especially true if you are having (or think you are about to have) a panic attack, become upset or argue. Tell your partner and don't let them guess. Make sure that you are open and talk about everything that you feel. Part of the irritation is from keeping it all inside and your partner invading your space to figure out what's going on. Communicating ensures you are not doing that.
- Apologize Quickly: As soon as you realize you are being easily irritated, apologize. The longer you sit and get upset with yourself or others, the more you'll irritated you will become. Be honest as well and make sure you tell your partner or those around you, why you are irritable.
- Explain What You Need: Often those close to or around you have no idea how to talk to you when you are irritable. Make sure that you are open with what you need. If you need someone nearby holding you, tell them. If you need them to try to avoid criticisms when you are suffering, tell them when the best time to talk to you is. Some people need those they care about to talk about something other than their irritability, as a distraction. Whatever you need, communicate it.
- These aren't going to stop the irritability, but they are going to help reduce the extent that your irritability affects you and those around you.
- A calm environment
- Have enough lighting during the day and darkness at night (refer back to insomnia)
- Getting plenty of sleep
- Practice relaxation techniques. When practiced regularly, relaxation techniques such as mindfulness meditation, progressive muscle relaxation, and deep breathing can reduce anxiety symptoms and increase feelings of relaxation and emotional well-being.
- Adopt healthy eating habits. Start the day right with breakfast, and continue with frequent small meals throughout the day. If you go too long without eating it leads to low blood sugar, which can make you feel more anxious.
- Reduce nicotine. It may lead to more anxiety, not less.
- Exercise regularly. Exercise is a natural stress buster and anxiety reliever. To achieve the maximum benefit, aim for at least 30 minutes of aerobic exercise on most days.
- Get enough sleep. A lack of sleep can exacerbate anxious thoughts and feelings, so try to get 7 to 9 hours of quality sleep a night. (Refer back to insomnia)

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