

Bosentan, TRACLEER® – in the treatment of rheumatic diseases

Mode of action/indication

Bosentan is an endothelin receptor antagonist. Endothelin is a protein secreted from cells that line the interior surface of blood vessels, and it is one of the most powerful vasoconstrictors (agents that cause narrowing of blood vessels). Bosentan decreases the resistance in blood vessels. It is used for treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension and for treatment and prevention of recurrence of severe finger ulcers in patients with scleroderma or other systemic connective tissue diseases.

Dosage and method of administration

The starting dose is 62.5 mg twice a day. After four weeks, the dose is usually increased to 125 mg twice a day. Food does not affect absorption of the drug. Tablets should be taken with a glass of water.

Adverse effects

The most common adverse effect associated with the drug is headache. In addition, it may cause flushing of the face, irritation of throat and nasal passages, swelling of legs and ankles, drop in blood pressure, heart palpitations, heartburn, fatigue, itching, nausea and anaemia. Less common side effects include vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, rash and decrease in the number of blood platelets. Jaundice (yellowing of the eyes or skin) or fever associated with nausea or vomiting may sometimes occur. In that event, medical help must be sought at once, as it may be associated with impaired liver function.

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

The drug must not be used during pregnancy or breastfeeding. The drug must be stopped at least 3 months before a planned pregnancy.

Follow-up

Safety tests are taken **a month after** onset of treatment, and then at the treating doctor's discretion. In addition, additional liver tests must be taken 2 weeks after a dose increase. The results are checked at the health centre. The safety tests include the following: **Basic blood count, B-NEUT and ALT.**

Other considerations

The drug may have interactions with other drugs.

Link [Reumalääkkeiden ohjeet | Reumatalo.fi | Terveyskylä.fi](#) (in Finnish)

[Wellbeing services county of Satakunta](#)

