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**Medication Guide  
Deferiprone (de-fer-ip-rone) Tablets**

**What is the most important information I should know about deferiprone?**

Deferiprone can cause serious side effects, including a very low white blood cell count. One type of white blood cell that is important for fighting infections is called a neutrophil. If your neutrophil count is low (neutropenia), you may be at risk of developing a serious infection that can lead to death. Neutropenia is common with deferiprone and can become severe in some people. Severe neutropenia is known as agranulocytosis. If you develop agranulocytosis, you will be at risk of developing serious infections that can lead to death.

Your healthcare provider should do a blood test before you start deferiprone and weekly during treatment to check your neutrophil count. If you develop neutropenia, your healthcare provider should check your blood counts every day until your white blood cell count improves. Your healthcare provider may temporarily stop treatment with deferiprone if you develop neutropenia or infection.

Stop taking deferiprone and get medical help right away if you develop any of these symptoms of infection:

- fever
- sore throat or mouth sores
- flu-like symptoms
- chills and severe shaking.

See “**What are the possible side effects of deferiprone?**” for more information about side effects.

**What is deferiprone?**

Deferiprone is a prescription medicine used to treat people with thalassemia syndromes who have iron overload from blood transfusions, when current iron removal (chelation) therapy does not work well enough.

It is not known if deferiprone is safe and effective:

- to treat iron overload due to blood transfusions in people with any other type of anemia that is long lasting (chronic)
- in children

**Do not take deferiprone tablets if you are allergic to deferiprone or any of the ingredients in deferiprone tablets.**

See the end of this Medication Guide for a complete list of ingredients in deferiprone tablets.

**Before you take deferiprone tablets, tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you:**

- have liver problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. Deferiprone can harm your unborn baby. You should avoid becoming pregnant during treatment with deferiprone. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you become pregnant during treatment with deferiprone.

**Females who are able to become pregnant:**

- Your healthcare provider should do a pregnancy test before you start treatment with deferiprone.
- You should use effective birth control during treatment with deferiprone and for at least 6 months after the last dose.

**Males with female partners who are able to become pregnant:**

- You should use effective birth control during treatment with deferiprone and for at least 3 months after the last dose.

- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if deferiprone passes into your breast milk. Do not breastfeed during treatment with deferiprone and for 2 weeks after the last dose.

**Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take**, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements.

**How should I take deferiprone?**

- Take deferiprone exactly as your healthcare provider tells you.
- Your healthcare provider will prescribe deferiprone based on your body weight.

- Your healthcare provider will check your body iron level during treatment with deferiprone and may change your dose if needed. Your healthcare provider may also change your dose of deferiprone if you have certain side effects. Do not change your dose of deferiprone unless your healthcare provider tells you to.
- Take deferiprone 3 times each day. Take your first dose in the morning, the second dose at mid-day, and the third dose in the evening.
- Taking deferiprone with meals may help reduce nausea.
- **If you must take a medicine to treat indigestion (antacid), or mineral supplements that contain iron, aluminum, or zinc during treatment with deferiprone, allow at least 4 hours between taking deferiprone and these products.**
- If you take too much deferiprone, call your healthcare provider.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and then continue with your regular schedule. Do not try to catch-up or take 2 doses at the same time to make up for a missed dose.

**What are the possible side effects of deferiprone?**

**Deferiprone can cause serious side effects, including:**

- See “**What is the most important information I should know about deferiprone?**”
- **Increased liver enzyme levels in your blood.** Your healthcare provider should do monthly blood tests to check your liver function during treatment with deferiprone.
- **Decreased levels of zinc in your blood.** Your healthcare provider will do blood tests to check your zinc levels during treatment with deferiprone and may prescribe a zinc supplement for you if your zinc levels are low.

The most common side effects of deferiprone include:

- nausea
- vomiting
- stomach-area (abdominal) pain
- joint pain

Deferiprone may cause a change in urine color to reddish-brown. This is not harmful and is expected during treatment with deferiprone.

These are not all the possible side effects of deferiprone.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

**How should I store deferiprone tablets?**

- Store deferiprone tablets at room temperature, 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C) [see USP Controlled Room Temperature].

**Keep deferiprone and all medicines out of the reach of children.**

**General information about the safe and effective use of deferiprone.**

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. Do not use deferiprone for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give deferiprone to other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have. It may harm them. You can ask your pharmacist or healthcare provider for information about deferiprone that is written for health professionals.

**What are the ingredients in deferiprone tablets?**

**Active ingredient:** deferiprone

**Inactive ingredients:** colloidal silicon dioxide, magnesium stearate, and microcrystalline cellulose.

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For more information, call 1-866-923-4914 or visit [www.taro.com](http://www.taro.com).