

Treating your kidney disease related itch

Your guide to Kapruvia

Kapruvia contains the active substance difelikefalin. It is used to treat itching in adults with chronic kidney disease who need dialysis to clean their blood. **This guide should always be read together with the Kapruvia Patient Information Leaflet (PIL). It should not replace it.**

▼ This medicine is subject to additional monitoring. This will allow quick identification of new safety information. If you experience any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any side effects not listed in the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) or in this booklet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at <https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

What is Kapruvia?

Nearly half of people with kidney disease experience moderate-to-severe itch. Kapruvia is a treatment for moderate-to-severe itch associated with chronic kidney disease and is prescribed to adults who are having in-centre haemodialysis.

How does Kapruvia work?

Kapruvia specifically targets the systems in your body that cause itch, working in two ways on your nerves and immune cells to relieve the sensation of itching.

Kapruvia is given at the end of your regular haemodialysis session

How is Kapruvia given?

Kapruvia is given to you by a doctor or nurse at the end of your haemodialysis treatment, via an injection through the tube that connects you to the dialysis machine. This means you can continue with the same schedule of visits to the clinic as you were before.

The treatment will be given 3 times per week at the end of your haemodialysis session. This increases to 4 times per week if you are having 4 haemodialysis sessions a week. No more than 4 doses of Kapruvia are given per week even if you have more than 4 haemodialysis sessions.

How quickly will Kapruvia work?

Itching is expected to decrease after 2-3 weeks treatment but it may take up to 12 weeks for some people.

Can I continue to drive?

Kapruvia can cause drowsiness and dizziness which may affect your ability to drive and use machines. If affected, or, if you are not sure of the effect Kapruvia may have on your ability to react, do not drive or use machines.

What if haemodialysis treatment is unfinished or missed?

If a haemodialysis treatment is unfinished, your doctor will decide whether it is better for you to receive Kapruvia after the unfinished haemodialysis session, or wait until your next session. If a session is missed, the usual dose of Kapruvia will be given to you at the next haemodialysis treatment.

Please consult the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) for more information.

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Does Kapruvia cause any side effects?

It is important to remember that all medicines can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Please consult the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) for more details, which you can get from your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

The side effects listed below are common and may affect up to 1 in 10 people receiving Kapruvia:

- Feeling sleepy or drowsy
- Sensation disorder in the skin such as tingling, prickling, burning or numbness, decreased feeling or sensitivity

The side effects listed below are uncommon and may affect up to 1 in 100 people

- Dizziness
- Headache
- Changes in mental status (alertness and clarity of thought), including confusion
- Nausea, vomiting
- Diarrhoea

Before you use Kapruvia

Talk to your doctor or nurse before you are given Kapruvia if you have increased potassium level in the blood, have heart issues (weakness or heart rhythm disorder), reduced function of the blood-brain barrier (e.g. cancer in the brain or central nervous system, multiple sclerosis or dementia) or if you are 65 years of age or older. Talk to your doctor if you are taking other medicines that could increase your risk of drowsiness or dizziness. If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor for advice before you are given Kapruvia.

Please consult the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) for more information.

If you have any concerns or further questions about Kapruvia make sure to ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse for more information