**How to use this medication**

**What is it**

Leflunomide is a medication used to treat rheumatoid arthritis. While taking this medicine it is important to have your blood tests done and see your doctor on a regular basis.

**Take it once a day**

Leflunomide is usually taken as a 10 mg or 20 mg tablet once a day. In some cases, it may be prescribed every other day.

**Be patient**

It will take 6 to 8 weeks for the leflunomide to work. It is important for you to keep taking the medicine.

**What you need to do**

**Avoid alcohol**

Drinking alcohol while taking leflunomide could harm your liver. It is best to avoid alcohol.

**Don't get pregnant or breastfeed**

Leflunomide can harm an unborn child. If you are having sex or thinking of having sex and could get pregnant, it is important to use birth control. We recommend the birth control pill.

**Side effects & important facts**

**Nausea, diarrhea, & weight loss**

- Some people feel unwell with nausea when they take leflunomide.
- Leflunomide can also cause diarrhea. The diarrhea can be severe. If you develop diarrhea call your doctor.
- Let your doctor know if you are losing weight when taking leflunomide.

**Blood pressure**

Leflunomide can rarely cause an increase in your blood pressure. Your doctor will monitor this. Tell your doctor if you have high blood pressure.

**Rash**

Leflunomide can rarely cause a rash. Let your doctor know if you develop a rash while taking leflunomide.

**Hair loss**

Leflunomide can rarely cause thinning of the hair. Let your doctor know if this becomes a problem.

**When should I call my doctor**

Please call if you need to stop

- If you feel sick and want to stop
- If you are concerned about any side effects
- If you want to or have already stopped the medicine

Other reasons to call your doctor:

- Diarrhea
- Shortness of breath
- Rash
- Pregnant or Planning Pregnancy
- If you are having surgery

**Other important information**

**Stopping leflunomide**

You can simply stop taking leflunomide. You do not need to wean off it. Please call your doctor if you stop the medication.