



LEFLUNOMIDE Generic Name



Brand Names: Arava

WHAT IS IT?

Leflunomide is a DMARD (Disease Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug) that can be used in combination with other DMARDs (except methotrexate) to treat rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Leflunomide reduces inflammation and slows the progress of RA by decreasing joint damage and disability.

The most common side effect of leflunomide is diarrhea, which occurs in approximately 20% of patients. Your doctor may start you off at higher dose, called a "loading dose," which may increase your chances of experiencing diarrhea. It may take between 6-12 weeks before you notice improvements in your arthritis signs and symptoms.

DO's

- Take this medication with a meal
- Drink plenty of fluids daily
- Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medications (prescription and non-prescription) including: over-the-counter drugs and natural remedies.

DON'Ts

- Do not use if you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or are trying to become pregnant
- Do not use if your body is fighting off an infection
- Do not use if you excessively drink alcohol
- Do not use if you are experiencing an allergic reaction to the drug

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS

Diarrhea; vomiting; heartburn; headache; dizziness; weight loss; back pain; muscle pain or weakness; pain, burning, numbness, or tingling of the hands or feet; hair loss; leg cramps; dry skin.

DOSING

10 mg - 20 mg taken once daily Leflunomide is taken orally **once** daily with food.

MY LOADING DOSE: _____ mg

I will take _____ pills orally, _____ a day until this date: _____.

MY DOSE: _____ mg

Beginning on this date: _____, I will take _____ pills orally, _____ a day.