

Deferasirox Juno

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) summary

The [full CMI](#) on the next page has more details. If you are worried about using this medicine, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

1. Why am I using Deferasirox Juno?

Deferasirox Juno contains the active ingredient deferasirox. Deferasirox Juno is used to treat a condition called iron overload, which happens when the body has too much iron. This can occur after repeated blood transfusions. Deferasirox Juno is also used to treat patients who have iron overload associated with their thalassemia syndrome (a blood disorder).

For more information, see Section [1. Why am I using Deferasirox Juno?](#) in the full CMI.

2. What should I know before I use Deferasirox Juno?

Do not use if you have ever had an allergic reaction to deferasirox or any of the ingredients listed at the end of the CMI.

Talk to your doctor if you have any other medical conditions, take any other medicines, or are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or are breastfeeding.

For more information, see Section [2. What should I know before I use Deferasirox Juno?](#) in the full CMI.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Some medicines may interfere with deferasirox and affect how it works.

A list of these medicines is in Section [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#) in the full CMI.

4. How do I use Deferasirox Juno?

Your doctor will calculate the dose you need and tell you how many tablets to take each day. The usual starting dose is 20 mg per kilogram body weight each day for patients receiving regular blood transfusions. For patients NOT receiving regular blood transfusions, the usual starting dose is 10 mg per kilogram body weight. A higher or lower starting dose may be recommended by your doctor based on your individual treatment needs.

Disperse the required number of tablets completely by stirring in a 100 - 200 mL glass of water or orange juice or apple juice until a suspension forms. Drink the entire contents of the glass. Take it on an empty stomach at least 30 minutes before eating any food.

More instructions can be found in Section [4. How do I use Deferasirox Juno?](#) in the full CMI.

5. What should I know while using Deferasirox Juno?

Things you should do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remind any doctor, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are using Deferasirox Juno.• Keep all of your doctor's appointments so that your progress can be checked.• Tell your doctor straight away if you notice your urine output becomes substantially reduced.• If you are going to have surgery, tell the surgeon or anaesthetist that you are taking this medicine.
Things you should not do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not stop using this medicine suddenly or lower the dosage without checking with your doctor.• Do not give your medicine to anyone else, even if their conditions seems similar to yours.• Do not use it to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.
Driving or using machines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deferasirox may cause dizziness in some people. If you experience dizziness, do not drive, operate machinery or do anything else that could be dangerous.
Looking after your medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep your medicine in the original container until it is time to take it.• Store it in a cool, dry place, below 25°C.

For more information, see Section [5. What should I know while using Deferasirox Juno?](#) in the full CMI.

6. Are there any side effects?

Seek immediate medical attention if you experience any difficulty in breathing or swallowing, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat, severe itching of the skin, drowsiness, upper right abdominal pain, yellowing of the skin or eyes and dark urine. For more information, including what to do if you have any side effects, see Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#) in the full CMI.

Deferasirox Juno

Active ingredient(s): *deferasirox*

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

This leaflet provides important information about using Deferasirox Juno. **You should also speak to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like further information or if you have any concerns or questions about using Deferasirox Juno.**

Where to find information in this leaflet:

- [1. Why am I using Deferasirox Juno?](#)
- [2. What should I know before I use Deferasirox Juno?](#)
- [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#)
- [4. How do I use Deferasirox Juno?](#)
- [5. What should I know while using Deferasirox Juno?](#)
- [6. Are there any side effects?](#)
- [7. Product details](#)

1. Why am I using Deferasirox Juno?

Deferasirox Juno contains the active ingredient deferasirox. Deferasirox Juno is used to treat a condition called iron overload, which happens when the body has too much iron. This can occur after repeated blood transfusions. The body has no natural way to remove excess iron which comes with blood transfusions.

Deferasirox Juno is also used to treat patients who have iron overload associated with their thalassemia syndromes, but who are not transfusion dependent. In patients with non-transfusion-dependent thalassemia syndromes, iron overload may develop over time due to increased absorption of dietary iron in response to low blood cell counts. Over time, this excess iron can damage important organs such as the liver and heart.

Deferasirox attaches itself to the iron molecules to remove the excess iron from the body. This will help prevent iron-induced organ damage.

Deferasirox Juno is to be taken every day. This type of medicine must be taken every day to help remove the excess iron from your body.

2. What should I know before I use Deferasirox Juno?

Warnings

Do not use Deferasirox Juno if:

- you are allergic to deferasirox, or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet. Always check the ingredients to make sure you can use this medicine.
- you have severe kidney problems

- you have a low platelet count
- you have an advanced stage of myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) or advanced cancer.

Check with your doctor if you:

- have a low level of platelets in your blood test
- have any other medical conditions, such as any problems with your kidneys or liver
- have an intolerance to lactose. This medicine contains lactose.
- take any medicines for any other condition.

During treatment, you may be at risk of developing certain side effects. It is important you understand these risks and how to monitor for them. See additional information under Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#)

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Check with your doctor if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.

Talk to your doctor if you are breastfeeding or intend to breastfeed.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any medicines, vitamins or supplements that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines and Deferasirox Juno may interfere with each other. These include:

- ciclosporin, used in transplantation to prevent organ rejection or to treat rheumatoid arthritis or atopic dermatitis
- midazolam (an injected medicine used for sedation)
- simvastatin (medicines used to lower cholesterol)
- hormonal contraceptive agents (birth control medicines). Their effectiveness may be reduced while taking Deferasirox Juno.
- certain painkillers or anti-inflammatory medicines (e.g. aspirin, ibuprofen, corticosteroids)
- oral bisphosphonates (medicines used to treat osteoporosis)
- anticoagulant medicines (medicines used to prevent or treat blood clotting)
- antacid preparations containing aluminium, which should not be taken at the same time of day as Deferasirox Juno
- a medicine for type 2 diabetes called repaglinide
- certain medicines for epilepsy or sedation (phenytoin, phenobarbitone)
- a medicine for HIV called ritonavir
- a medicine for tuberculosis called rifampicin
- a medicine for cancer called paclitaxel

- a medicine used to remove bile acids called cholestyramine
- theophylline (used to treat respiratory diseases such as asthma)
- busulfan (used as treatment prior to bone marrow transplant).

Other medicines that are processed like theophylline in the body and your doctor should know about include: clozapine, imipramine, haloperidol, fluvoxamine, mexiletine, naproxen, olanzapine, riluzole and zolmitriptan.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about what medicines, vitamins or supplements you are taking and if these affect deferasirox.

4. How do I use Deferasirox Juno?

How much to take

- The dose is related to body weight for all patients. Your doctor will calculate the dose you need and tell you how many tablets to take each day.
- The usual starting dose is 20 mg per kilogram body weight each day for patients receiving regular blood transfusions.
- For patients NOT receiving regular blood transfusions, the usual starting dose is 10 mg per kilogram body weight.
- A higher or lower starting dose may be recommended by your doctor based on your individual treatment needs.
- Depending on your response, your doctor may increase the dose to a maximum 40 mg per kilogram body weight each day if you receive regular blood transfusions or 20 mg per kilogram body weight if you are NOT receiving regular blood transfusions.
- Follow the instructions provided and use Deferasirox Juno until your doctor tells you to stop.

When to take Deferasirox Juno

Take Deferasirox Juno once a day, every day, at about the same time each day. Take it on an empty stomach at least 30 minutes before eating any food. Taking it at the same time each day, 30 minutes before eating food will have the best effect. It will also help you remember when to take it.

How to take Deferasirox Juno

- Disperse the required number of tablets completely by stirring in a 100 - 200 mL glass of water or orange juice or apple juice until a suspension forms.
- When dispersing in juice, it helps to first disperse the tablets in about two tablespoons of water, before diluting with juice.
- Drink the entire contents of the glass, then add a little water or juice to what is left in the empty glass and drink that too.
- Do not disperse the tablets in fizzy drinks or milk.
- Do not chew, split or crush the tablets. Do not swallow them whole.

If you forget to use Deferasirox Juno

Deferasirox Juno should be used regularly at the same time each day.

If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take the next dose when you are meant to. Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose that you missed. This may increase the chance of you getting an unwanted side effect.

Otherwise, take it as soon as you remember, and then go back to taking it as you would normally.

If you have trouble remembering to take your medicine, ask your pharmacist for some hints.

If you use too much Deferasirox Juno

If you think that you have used too much deferasirox, you may need urgent medical attention.

You should immediately:

- phone the Poisons Information Centre (by calling **13 11 26**), or
- contact your doctor, or
- go to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital.

You should do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

5. What should I know while using Deferasirox Juno?

Things you should do

- Remind any doctor, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are taking Deferasirox Juno.
- Keep all of your doctor's appointments so that your progress can be checked. Elderly patients should be monitored closely for early signs of adverse reactions that may require a dose adjustment.
- Tell your doctor straight away if you notice your urine output becomes substantially reduced.
- If you are going to have surgery, tell the surgeon or anaesthetist that you are taking this medicine.

Things you should not do

- Do not stop using this medicine suddenly or lower the dosage without checking with your doctor.
- Do not give your medicine to anyone else, even if their conditions seems similar to yours.
- Do not use it to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.

Driving or using machines

Be careful before you drive or use any machines or tools until you know how deferasirox affects you.

Deferasirox may cause dizziness in some people.

Looking after your medicine

- Keep your medicine in the original container until it is time to take it.
- Store it in a cool, dry place, below 25°C.

Store it in a cool dry place away from moisture, heat or sunlight; for example, do not store it:

- in the bathroom or near a sink, or
- in the car or on window sills.

Keep it where young children cannot reach it.

Getting rid of any unwanted medicine

If you no longer need to use this medicine or it is out of date, take it to any pharmacy for safe disposal.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date.

6. Are there any side effects?

All medicines can have side effects. If you do experience any side effects, most of them are minor and temporary. However, some side effects may need medical attention.

See the information below and, if you need to, ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any further questions about side effects.

Less serious side effects

Less serious side effects	What to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nausea, diarrhoea, vomiting, pain in the abdomen, bloating, constipation or indigestion • rash • headache • itching • fever or symptoms of a cold or flu • cough or sore throat • dizziness • swelling of arms or legs • change in the colour of the skin • anxiety • trouble sleeping • tiredness • sore muscles or joints • hair loss 	<p>Speak to your doctor if you have any of these less serious side effects and they worry you.</p>

Serious side effects

Serious side effects	What to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • difficulty in breathing and swallowing • swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat • severe itching of the skin, with a red rash or raised bumps • rash, red skin, blistering of the lips, eyes or mouth, skin peeling, 	<p>Call your doctor straight away, or go straight to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital if you</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high fever, flu-like symptoms and enlarged lymph nodes (signs of severe skin reaction) • a substantially reduced urine output (sign of kidney problem) • drowsiness, upper right abdominal pain, yellowing of your skin or eyes and dark urine (sign of liver problems) • vomiting with blood and/or black, tar-like stools • frequent heartburn or abdominal pain (ulcers), particularly after eating or taking the drug • blurred, cloudy or partial loss of vision • hearing disturbances • sudden back pain or pain on the right side of the abdomen (signs of gallstones) • severe upper stomach pain (pancreatitis) • pain in the upper abdomen, indigestion, loss of appetite, feeling full and bloated, not being able to tolerate fatty foods, nausea or weight loss (may be a sign of ulcer bleeding or haemorrhage). 	<p>notice any of these serious side effects.</p>
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Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything else that may be making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed here may occur in some people.

Reporting side effects

After you have received medical advice for any side effects you experience, you can report side effects to the Therapeutic Goods Administration online at www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

Always make sure you speak to your doctor or pharmacist before you decide to stop taking any of your medicines.

7. Product details

This medicine is only available with a doctor's prescription.

What Deferasirox Juno contains

Active ingredient (main ingredient)	deferasirox
Other ingredients (inactive ingredients)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• povidone• microcrystalline cellulose• lactose monohydrate• crospovidone• croscarmellose sodium• sodium lauryl sulfate• colloidal anhydrous silica• magnesium stearate
Potential allergens/declared substances	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• contains lactose

Do not take this medicine if you are allergic to any of these ingredients.

What Deferasirox Juno looks like

Deferasirox Juno 125 mg tablets are white to off white, round, flat, uncoated tablets, with debossing “D” on one side and “125” on the other side (Aust R 306559)

Deferasirox Juno 250 mg tablets are white to off white, round, flat, uncoated tablets, with debossing “D” on one side and “250” on the other side (Aust R 306558)

Deferasirox Juno 500 mg tablets are white to off white, round, flat, uncoated tablets, with debossing “D” on one side and “500” on the other side (Aust R 306557)

Who distributes Deferasirox Juno

Juno Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd
15-17 Chapel Street
Cremorne VIC 3121
www.junopharm.com.au

This leaflet was prepared in January 2025.