

Dalbavancin

Information for patients, relatives and carers

① For more information, please contact:

Medicines Information

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Email: yhs-tr.medicines.information@nhs.net

OPAT Teams

York Hospital Phone: 01904 725988
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What is Dalbavancin for and what are the benefits of taking it?

Dalbavancin is an antibiotic. Dalbavancin kills germs called bacteria by interfering with the formation of bacteria cell walls. It is used for treatment of skin infections or infections below the skin. Dalbavancin can also be used to treat bone and joint infections, endocarditis (infection of the heart valves) or other infections on advice of a microbiologist. These are "off-licence" uses, meaning the manufacturer has not applied for a licence for it to be used to treat these infections.

However, there is increasing evidence that dalbavancin is effective for these infections and that the benefits of treatment outweigh associated risks for certain patients.

How is dalbavancin given?

The dalbavancin intravenous drip will be administered by a doctor or nurse via a cannula (a small tube inserted into your vein), or similar, in your arm. The drip will take at least 30 minutes to complete.

What are the benefits of dalbavancin treatment?

Dalbavancin is an antibiotic that stays active in the body for a prolonged period, up to 14 days after a single dose. That means you do not need to receive daily intravenous antibiotics so you may be able to go home.

What doses of dalbavancin will I receive and for what course length?

This will depend on the type of infection you are being treated for. The typical doses will usually be given at seven and 14 day intervals. You will be told by the doctor or nurse when and where to go for any further doses of dalbavancin if required.

Do I need to tell anyone I have had dalbavancin?

Please record dates of doses on the patient record below. You must inform healthcare professionals that you have been given dalbavancin in recent weeks, particularly if they are prescribing you new antibiotics as the dalbavancin may affect further antibiotic prescriptions. Your hospital team will send a letter to your GP to inform them.

Blood monitoring

It is important that you return for blood tests so that we will be able to tell that the antibiotic is working against the infection.

What side effects might I experience?

All medicines have side effects, which you could experience.

Serious allergic reactions that can be life threatening can happen as you are given the IV drip (this is rare – happens in less than one in 1000 people)

The nurse giving you the dalbavancin will check you for these signs of an allergic reaction:

- Sudden swelling of your lips, face, throat or tongue.
- Severe rash.
- Itchiness.
- Tightening of your throat.
- Dizziness.
- Difficulty in swallowing.
- Difficulty in breathing.
- Flushing of the skin.

Other reactions that can happen during the IV drip:

- Flushing (warmth and redness of the skin).
- Urticaria (raised, itchy, red or skin-coloured bumps).
- Rash.

Stopping or slowing the infusion can help stop these reactions.

Common side effects:

- Headache.
- Feeling sick.
- Diarrhoea.

Uncommon side effects:

- Decreased appetite.
- Constipation.
- Dizziness (do not drive or use machinery if you are affected).
- Flushing.
- Altered taste.
- Difficulty sleeping.
- Abdominal pain and diarrhoea: If you suffer from abdominal pain (stomach ache) or diarrhoea which may contain blood or mucus you must seek medical advice. Suffering from these symptoms may mean you have a bowel infection.
- Changes in hearing: If you have any changes in your hearing, you must seek urgent medical advice.

Changes in hearing or kidney function can occur. You should be aware of this and report any changes in your hearing. These have been reported as a side effect with a similar medicine but how much they occur with dalbavancin is not fully known.

What happens if I become unwell on dalbavancin?

If you become unwell at any time, please contact the hospital team who prescribed the dalbavancin or the outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy (OPAT) team. In addition to serious side effects, you should contact your doctor if you think your infection is getting worse i.e. you start running a fever, the infection site becomes redder or starts to spread or becomes more painful or swollen.

Please be aware you may need to visit the hospital on request of the medical team at any point during your treatment. For patients being looked after by the OPAT team: Please refer to a separate OPAT leaflet for contact details.

Dalbavancin patient record

Patient name

DOB and NHS number

Dalbavancin date of first dose

Dalbavancin date of second dose

Dalbavancin dates of further doses

Dalbavancin dates of further doses

Note that dalbavancin clinical guidance advises:

- One dose provides treatment for two weeks
- Two doses provide treatment for up to six weeks (four weeks after the second dose)

Tell us what you think of this leaflet

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact: Medicines Information York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE or phone 01904 725960.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS offers impartial advice and assistance to patients, their relatives, friends and carers. We can listen to feedback (positive or negative), answer questions and help resolve any concerns about Trust services.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or email yhs-tr.patientexperienceteam@nhs.net

An answer phone is available out of hours.

Teaching, training and research

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of health and healthcare in our community. Healthcare students may observe consultations for this purpose. You can opt out if you do not want students to observe. We may also ask you if you would like to be involved in our research.

Leaflets in alternative languages or formats

If you would like this information in a different format, including braille or easy read, or translated into a different language, please speak to a member of staff in the ward or department providing your care.

Patient Information Leaflets can be accessed via the Trust's Patient Information Leaflet website: www.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk/your-visit/patient-information-leaflets/

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