



### How this medication works ?

Epclusa™ is a combination of two medicines, sofosbuvir and velpatasvir, indicated for the treatment of hepatitis C virus infection (HCV).

Epclusa™ blocks several stages of the virus replication process. This prevents the virus from multiplying in order to promote healing.

### How to take this medication ?

Epclusa™ → 1 tablet **once** daily.

This medication can be taken **with or without food**.

It is important to take Epclusa™ regularly, at the same time each day for the duration of the treatment.

The duration is 12 weeks. If you miss doses, it may compromise the success of the treatment and decrease your chances of recovery. Furthermore, the virus responsible for your hepatitis could become resistant and make the medicines less effective or even useless.

### Can I take Epclusa™ with my other medicines ?

Tell your healthcare professional especially if you take the following :

- Medicines for the treatment of tuberculosis like rifampin (Rifater, Rifadin, Rofact), rifabutin (Mycobutin), or rifapentine
- Medicines to prevent seizures like carbamazepine (Tegretol), oxcarbazepine (Trileptal), phenobarbital (Phenobarb), or phenytoine (Dilantin)
- Medicines to treat cardiac arrhythmia like amiodarone (Cordarone)

- HIV infection medicines like tipranavir (Aptivus), efavirenz (Sustiva, Atripla) or etravirine (Intence)
- Natural product : St. John's Wort (Hypericum perforatum)

These drugs are contraindicated or should be avoided with Epclusa™. Your doctor will suggest an alternative or dose adjustments with closer monitoring.

If you are taking medication for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers, you may need to take Epclusa™ at another moment or with food. For example, nizatidine (Axid), famotidine (Pepcid), cimetidine (Tagamet), ranitidine (Zantac), omeprazole (Losec), esomeprazole (Nexium), lansoprazole (Prevacid), rabeprazole (Aciphex), pantoprazole (Pantoloc) or antacids (Maalox, Gaviscon).

Other medicines like atorvastatin (Lipitor), rosuvastatin (Crestor), digoxin (Toloxin), tenofovir DF (Truvada, Viread, Complera, Stribild, Delstrigo), may interact with Epclusa™ and dose adjustments or closer monitoring may be necessary. You must tell your doctor about all the health products you take.

Consult your doctor or pharmacist before taking a new prescription medication, over the counter medication, natural product, or even a recreational drug.

### Can I drink alcohol with Epclusa™ ?

Ideally, abstinence from alcohol (beer, wine and spirits) is highly recommended for people infected with HCV to protect the liver.

## What are the side effects of this medication ?

It is a drug that is well tolerated in general, the main observed side effects of Eplclusa™ are mild and do not require stopping treatment.

They include among others :

- Headache
- Fatigue

Vomiting is not frequent. On the other hand, if you vomit :

- **Less than 3 hours after taking Eplclusa™**, take another tablet.
- **More than 3 hours after taking Eplclusa™**, wait and take the next dose at the original scheduled time.

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about any side effect that bothers you or persists. They can advise you to manage them.

Never stop your treatment without first talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

## Pregnancy and breast feeding

The effects of sofosbuvir, and velpatasvir are not known in pregnant women. Women of childbearing age should use adequate contraception.

Discuss this with your doctor.

The presence of sofosbuvir and velpatasvir, and their metabolites in breast milk is still unknown. Breastfeeding is therefore not recommended during treatment with Eplclusa™.

## Storage

Store Eplclusa™ tablets at a temperature under 30°C (86°F). Avoid damp places such as the bathroom.

Keep this medication in its original container. Keep out of reach and out of sight of children.

## General advice

Be faithful to your appointments with the doctor and the treatment team; they will be able to closely monitor your state of health.

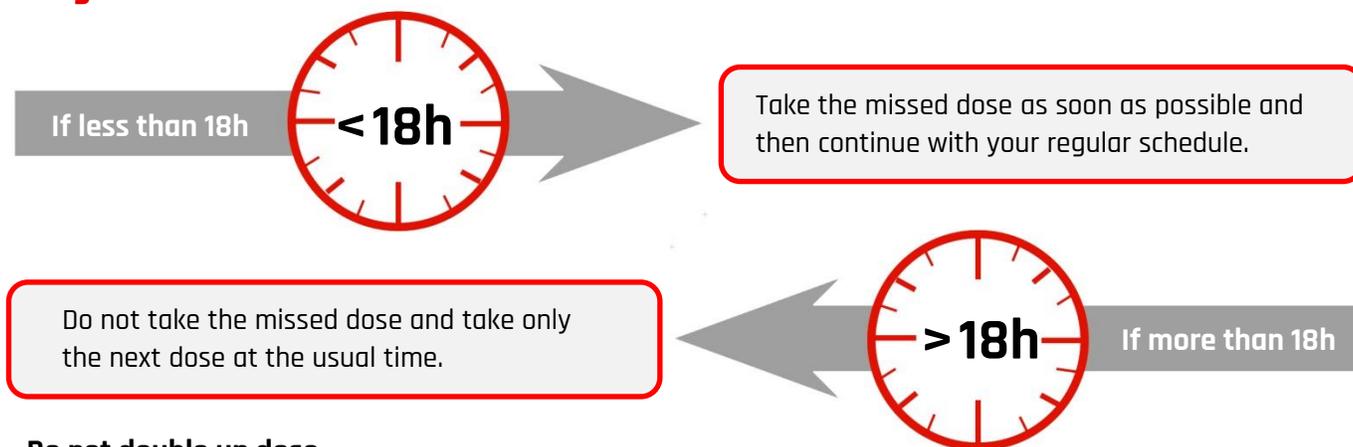
If you have any questions about your medication or need help to schedule when to take them, don't hesitate to ask your doctor or pharmacist who is familiar with what you are taking.

Contact person : \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone : \_\_\_\_\_

@ February 2020, R. Therrien

## I forgot to take a dose !



**Do not double up dose**