

Amitiza[®] (Lubiprostone)

Amitiza[®] is approved for the treatment of chronic constipation and constipation predominant irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) in adults over age 18. Amitiza[®] belongs to a class of drugs known as chloride channel activators. Chloride channels are located on the cells that line the inside of the intestines. Activating these chloride channels increases the fluid secreted into the intestines. The extra fluid in your intestines makes your stool soft. Soft stool allows for easier passage through the intestines. The medication may also improve symptoms such as bloating and abdominal discomfort.

Dosage:

Amitiza[®] is available by prescription only. It comes in 8 µg & 24 µg tablets.

How to take Amitiza[®] :

The recommended dosage for chronic constipation is 24 µg taken twice daily by mouth with food. The recommended dosage for irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) is 8 µg taken twice daily by mouth with food.

- Take Amitiza[®] once a day for the first week. If you do not have side-effects after the first week, you may increase the dose to twice daily.
- Take Amitiza[®] with food. This decreases the risk of developing nausea, which is the most common side-effect of Amitiza[®].
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you can. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take your next dose on the normal schedule. Do not take double or extra doses without consulting your healthcare provider.
- If nausea or diarrhea becomes a problem, try a lower dose of 8 µg.

Possible Side Effects:

Amitiza[®] may cause several side-effects such as:

- Nausea, vomiting, mild diarrhea, stomach pain or bloating
- Runny or stuffy nose, sneezing, cough
- Headache, dizziness
- Swelling in your hands, ankles, or feet
- Back pain
- Sore throat
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Stop using Amitiza[®] and get emergency medical help if you have any of the following signs that may indicate an allergic reaction:

- hives
- difficult breathing
- swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat

Pregnancy warning:

Animal studies showed an increased risk of pregnancy loss in some animals treated with Amitiza[®]. Do not take Amitiza[®] if you are pregnant. You must use effective birth-control to avoid getting pregnant while taking this medication. If you think that you have become pregnant while taking Amitiza[®], stop taking it and contact your healthcare provider for advice.

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