



## **VORINOSTAT**

Expert review and update by: Cutaneous Lymphoma Foundation Writers Bureau

### **WHAT IS VORINOSTAT?**

Brand Name: Zolinza®

Vorinostat is a histone deacetylase inhibitor (HDAC inhibitor). HDAC inhibitors target DNA-associated proteins (histones) and allow the cell's genes to be transcribed or expressed in a way that may help cancer cells die.

It is used to treat progressive, persistent, or recurrent cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL).

### **HOW IS IT DELIVERED?**

Vorinostat is delivered orally. It is typically given once daily.

### **WHAT IS THE EXPECTED RESULT?**

Improvement in the lymphoma and disease-related symptoms, such as itching, is typically noted within the first 2-3 months of treatment.

### **ARE THERE SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS TO BE AWARE OF?**

Vorinostat is not a permanent cure, so the lymphoma may relapse or progress after a few months of treatment. The medication dose may need to be reduced if there is medication intolerance or evidence of liver impairment on routine laboratory monitoring.

### **WHAT ARE COMMON SIDE EFFECTS?**

The following is not an exhaustive list of the possible side effects. For a complete list of possible side effects, please see the manufacturer's available information on the specific therapy.

Side effects may include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, poor appetite, and dehydration (from not taking in enough fluid or losing too much fluid). Additional side effects include lowered blood counts, increased blood glucose and serum creatinine (important if the patient has diabetes and/or kidney insufficiency), and changes in the patient's electrocardiogram (EKG). Blood clots, including pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis, have also been reported.

It is also very important to tell the doctor if you take coumadin (blood thinners) or valproic acid (a medicine to prevent or control seizures) as the combination of vorinostat and these drugs may alter the way the drugs work and the side effects that may cause.