



# PATIENT FACT SHEET

## Febuxostat (Uloric)



### WHAT IS IT?

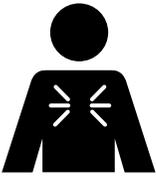
**Febuxostat (Uloric) is a medication that lowers the levels of uric acid in the body.** It is used for the chronic management of gout. It blocks the active site on xanthine oxidase, preventing the conversion of hypoxanthine and xanthine to uric acid. This, in turn, decreases levels of uric acid in the blood and thus helps to prevent gout flares.



### HOW TO TAKE IT

**Febuxostat comes in pill form.** It is recommended to start febuxostat at 40 mg daily. If patients are unable to achieve a goal serum uric acid level of <6 mg/dL (or <5mg/dL in some patients) after two weeks, the medication should be increased to 80 mg daily. Febuxostat should be started in conjunction with a medication to prevent gout flares, such as colchicine

or NSAIDs. Febuxostat does not need to be taken with meals. For mild liver or kidney damage, the dosage does not need to be adjusted. There are no studies looking at this medication in patients with severe kidney or liver damage; thus, caution should be used when prescribing febuxostat in this patient population.



### SIDE EFFECTS

**This medication should not be used in patients who are taking azathioprine or mercaptopurine,** as these medications can increase the serum levels of febuxostat in your blood, leading to toxic side effects. Along with elevated liver enzymes, headache, joint pain, and rash can be side effects of this medication. Higher rates of heart attacks and strokes were noted in patients taking febuxostat compared to allopurinol.

More frequent gout attacks have also been noted in patients when starting febuxostat. If an increased amount of gout attacks occur in the first months after starting this medication, symptomatic treatment with NSAIDS should be used to treat the acute flares, but febuxostat should not be stopped.



### TELL YOUR DOCTOR

**If you notice chest pain, chest pressure, shortness of breath, weakness, or neurological deficits, tell your doctor immediately.** If you are taking any other medications which may interact with this drug, please

tell your doctor. If you start experiencing joint pain or rashes, also make your doctor aware, as the medication dose may need to be adjusted.

Updated March 2019 by Vaneet Sandhu, MD, and reviewed by the American College of Rheumatology Committee on Communications and Marketing. This information is provided for general education only. Individuals should consult a qualified health care provider for professional medical advice, diagnosis and treatment of a medical or health condition.