

# iMedix: Your Personal Health Advisor.

## Vascepa

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### Description

Side Effects Joint/muscle pain or constipation may occur. If any of these effects last or get worse, tell your doctor or pharmacist promptly. Remember that this medication has been prescribed because your doctor has judged that the benefit to you is greater than the risk of side effects. Many people using this medication do not have serious side effects. Tell your doctor right away if you have any serious side effects, including: fast/irregular heartbeat, easy bruising/bleeding, swelling ankles/feet/hands. A very serious allergic reaction to this drug is rare. However, get medical help right away if you notice any symptoms of a serious allergic reaction, including: rash, itching/swelling (especially of the face/tongue/throat), severe dizziness, trouble breathing. This is not a complete list of possible side effects. If you notice other effects not listed above, contact your doctor or pharmacist. In the US – Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or at [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch). In Canada – Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to Health Canada at 1-866-234-2345. How long does it take for this medicine to take effect? The pharmacokinetic properties of icosapent ethyl indicate that after oral administration, peak plasma concentrations of EPA are reached in approximately 5 hours. However, the onset of clinical effect, particularly the reduction in triglyceride levels, may take longer to observe. Studies have shown significant reductions in triglyceride levels within weeks of starting therapy, with the maximum effect typically observed within 2 to 3 months of consistent use. How long do the effects of this medicine last? The effects of Vascepa on triglyceride levels are maintained with continuous daily administration. If the medication is discontinued, triglyceride levels are likely to return to baseline levels within a few weeks to months, depending on individual patient metabolism and dietary intake. Thus, the duration of the medication's effects is dependent on consistent daily use and adherence to prescribed dosages. Is it safe to consume alcohol while taking this medicine? While there is no direct contraindication for the consumption of alcohol while taking Vascepa, it is generally advisable for individuals with elevated triglyceride levels to limit or avoid alcohol intake. Alcohol can increase triglyceride levels and may counteract the beneficial effects of Vascepa on lipid profiles. Patients should discuss their alcohol consumption with their healthcare provider to ensure that it does not interfere with the treatment goals. Is this a habit forming medicine? Vascepa does not contain any psychoactive substances and is not considered habit-forming or addictive. It is a prescription medication intended for long-term management of triglyceride levels and cardiovascular risk, rather than for immediate or short-term effects that could potentially lead to dependency. Can this medicine be taken during pregnancy? The safety of Vascepa during pregnancy has not

been established. Animal studies have not demonstrated adverse effects on fetal development with icosapent ethyl, but there are insufficient studies in pregnant women. Vascepa should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus. Pregnant women should consult with their healthcare provider before starting Vascepa. Can this medicine be taken while breast-feeding? It is not known whether icosapent ethyl is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk and because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants from Vascepa, a decision should be made whether to discontinue breastfeeding or to discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother. Uses Icosapent ethyl is used along with certain other cholesterol medications (“statins” such as atorvastatin, simvastatin) to reduce the risk of heart attack, stroke, and certain types of heart problems that require treatment in a hospital. It is also used along with a proper diet to help lower fats (triglycerides) in the blood. Icosapent ethyl is a type of omega-3 fatty acid, a fat found in fish oil. It is thought to work by decreasing the amount of triglycerides made by the body. In addition to eating a proper diet (such as a low-cholesterol/low-fat diet), other lifestyle changes that may help this medication work better include exercising, losing weight if overweight, and stopping smoking. Consult your doctor for more details. How to use Vascepa Read the Patient Information Leaflet if available from your pharmacist before you start taking icosapent ethyl and each time you get a refill. If you have any questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist. Take this medication by mouth with food as directed by your doctor, usually twice a day. Swallow the capsules whole. Do not crush, chew, open, or dissolve the capsules. Do not substitute other omega-3 fatty acids or fish oil products (such as nonprescription products, vitamins, supplements) for this product without talking with your doctor first. They may not contain the same amount and type of fatty acids. Take this medication regularly to get the most benefit from it. To help you remember, take it at the same times each day. Keep taking this medication even if you feel well. It is very important to continue to follow your doctor’s advice about diet and exercise. Precautions Before taking icosapent ethyl, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or to fish or shellfish products; or if you have any other allergies. This product may contain inactive ingredients, which can cause allergic reactions or other problems. Talk to your pharmacist for more details. Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: liver disease, irregular heartbeat (such as atrial fibrillation). Before having surgery, tell your doctor or dentist about all the products you use (including prescription drugs, nonprescription drugs, and herbal products). During pregnancy, this medication should be used only when clearly needed. Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor. This medication passes into breast milk. Consult your doctor before breast-feeding. Overdose If someone has overdosed and has serious symptoms such as passing out or trouble breathing, call 911. Otherwise, call a poison control center right away. US residents can call their local poison control center at 1-800-222-1222. Canada residents can call a provincial poison control center. Do not share this medication with others. Lab and/or medical tests (such as cholesterol/triglyceride levels) should be done while you are taking this medication. Keep all medical and lab appointments. Consult your doctor for more details. If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is near the time of the next dose, skip the missed dose. Take your next dose at the regular time. Do not double the dose to catch up. Store at room temperature away from light and moisture. Keep all medications away from children and pets. Do not flush medications down the toilet or pour them into a drain unless instructed to do so. Properly discard this product when it is expired or no longer needed. Consult your pharmacist or local waste disposal company. Interactions Drug interactions may change how your medications work or increase your risk for serious side effects. This document does not contain all possible drug interactions. Keep a list of all the products you use (including prescription/nonprescription drugs and herbal products) and share it with your doctor and pharmacist. Do not start, stop, or change the dosage of any medicines without your doctor’s approval.

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## Side Effects

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**Uses**

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**Interactions**

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**Other Details**

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