

Starting your treatment journey with RINVOQ

A guide for atopic dermatitis patients who have been prescribed RINVOQ



for more information visit
www.rinvoq.co.nz



The people shown are models.

Why RINVOQ and why now?

Before now, you may have received other medicines for your atopic dermatitis (AD). However, you may not have responded adequately to them. Therefore, your doctor has decided to prescribe RINVOQ for your AD.

This booklet contains additional information about your RINVOQ treatment and aims to answer questions you may have.

RINVOQ is an unfunded medicine for the treatment of Atopic Dermatitis – you will need to pay for this medicine and other charges.

For more information and useful resources, visit www.rinvoq.co.nz



This booklet is supplementary to the Consumer Medicine Information. Always refer to the Consumer Medicine Information before starting RINVOQ treatment. You can find this online at www.rinvoq.co.nz or by scanning the QR code at the back of this booklet or on the product packaging.

Speak to your healthcare professional if you have any queries about your treatment.



Contents

04 Why RINVOQ?

06 Things you should know
before you take RINVOQ

08 Things to watch out for
before taking RINVOQ

10 Taking RINVOQ

12 What you need to know
about RINVOQ dosing

14 Possible side effects
to look out for

16 Tips on including RINVOQ
in your daily routine

18 www.rinvoq.co.nz
for things you need to know about
your RINVOQ treatment

Why RINVOQ?

You have been prescribed RINVOQ (otherwise known as upadacitinib) to treat your atopic dermatitis (AD). Before being given RINVOQ you may have been treated with other medicines. Your doctor or nurse will advise you which of these medicines you should continue to take with RINVOQ.

What is RINVOQ?

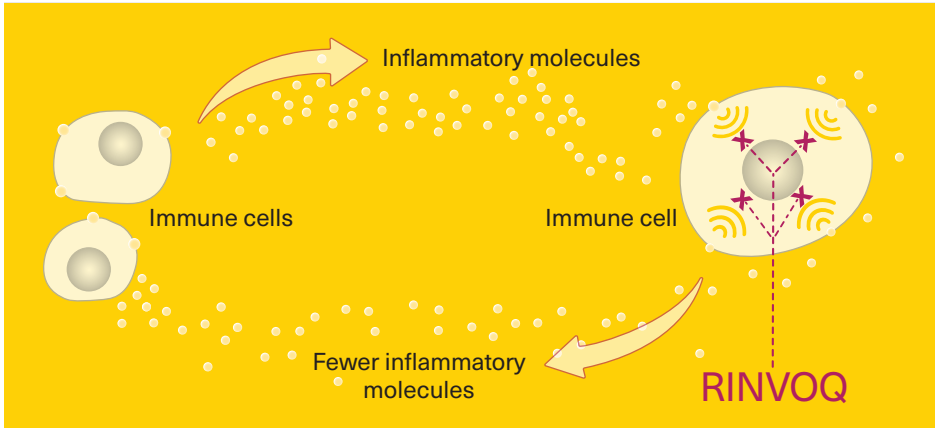
RINVOQ is a tablet containing the active ingredient upadacitinib that targets the underlying inflammation that can cause your atopic dermatitis symptoms. It has been prescribed to improve the condition of your skin and reduce itching and flares. **Your prescription may be for 15mg or 30mg daily, so may require one or two pills each day. Your healthcare team will clarify this with you. It is important to take your RINVOQ strictly as directed.**



Remember, your healthcare team are here to help. This could be your GP, pharmacist, nurse or dermatologist. You can also get support from your family or friends if you're feeling like you need somebody to talk to.

How does RINVOQ work?

RINVOQ contains the active ingredient upadacitinib, which is a Janus Kinase (JAK) inhibitor. JAK enzymes create signals in the body's immune system that result in inflammation. RINVOQ works to block these signals, thereby reducing inflammation and the production of immune cells within the body.



How can RINVOQ help me?

By reducing the activity of Janus Kinase, RINVOQ can help to:



Improve skin condition



Reduce itching



Reduce flares

RINVOQ has also been shown to improve symptoms of pain, anxiety, and depression associated with atopic dermatitis. In addition, RINVOQ helps reduce the impact of atopic dermatitis on the overall quality of your life including your sleep disruption, daily activities and emotional state.

AD is a chronic condition, so to help control your symptoms, you should take RINVOQ daily, as prescribed by your doctor.

Things you should know before taking RINVOQ

Do not take RINVOQ:

- ❌ If you are allergic to any of the ingredients that RINVOQ has (see the last page of the Consumer Medicine Information for a full list of ingredients)
- ❌ After the expiry date printed on the pack or if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering
- ❌ If you have active tuberculosis or other serious infections
- ❌ If you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant or breastfeeding. If you or your partner are planning on having children, speak to your doctor or nurse about the risks and benefits involved while taking RINVOQ
- ❌ To treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you start taking RINVOQ.

Review the Consumer Medicine Information (available at www.rinvoq.co.nz) for a full list of things you should know before starting **RINVOQ** treatment.



RINVOQ and other medicines

Some medicines may interfere with RINVOQ and affect how well it works.

You should not take RINVOQ if you are taking a biological medicine that lowers your immune system unless instructed by your prescriber to do so.

Some medicines that can affect the way RINVOQ works:

- ⚠ Medicines to treat or prevent fungal infections (such as ketoconazole, itraconazole, posaconazole or voriconazole)
- ⚠ Antibiotics to treat bacterial infections (such as clarithromycin or rifampicin)
- ⚠ Medicines used to treat neurological disorders (such as phenytoin).
- ⚠ Medicines that may increase your risk of gastrointestinal perforation such as a non-steroidal antiinflammatory medicines (usually used to treat painful and/or inflammatory conditions of muscle or joints), and/or opioids (used to treat severe pain), and/or corticosteroids (usually used to treat inflammatory conditions)

Some medicines can increase the risk of infection when taken with RINVOQ:

- ⚠ Other JAK inhibitors (such as tofacitinib)
- ⚠ Biological medicines which suppress your immune system (such as etanercept and adalimumab)
- ⚠ Medicines used to suppress the immune system (such as azathioprine, ciclosporin and tacrolimus).

Check with your prescriber before taking these medicines with RINVOQ. Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any vitamins or supplements that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

In addition to medicines, avoid food or drink containing grapefruit during treatment with RINVOQ as these may interact and increase the risk of side effects.



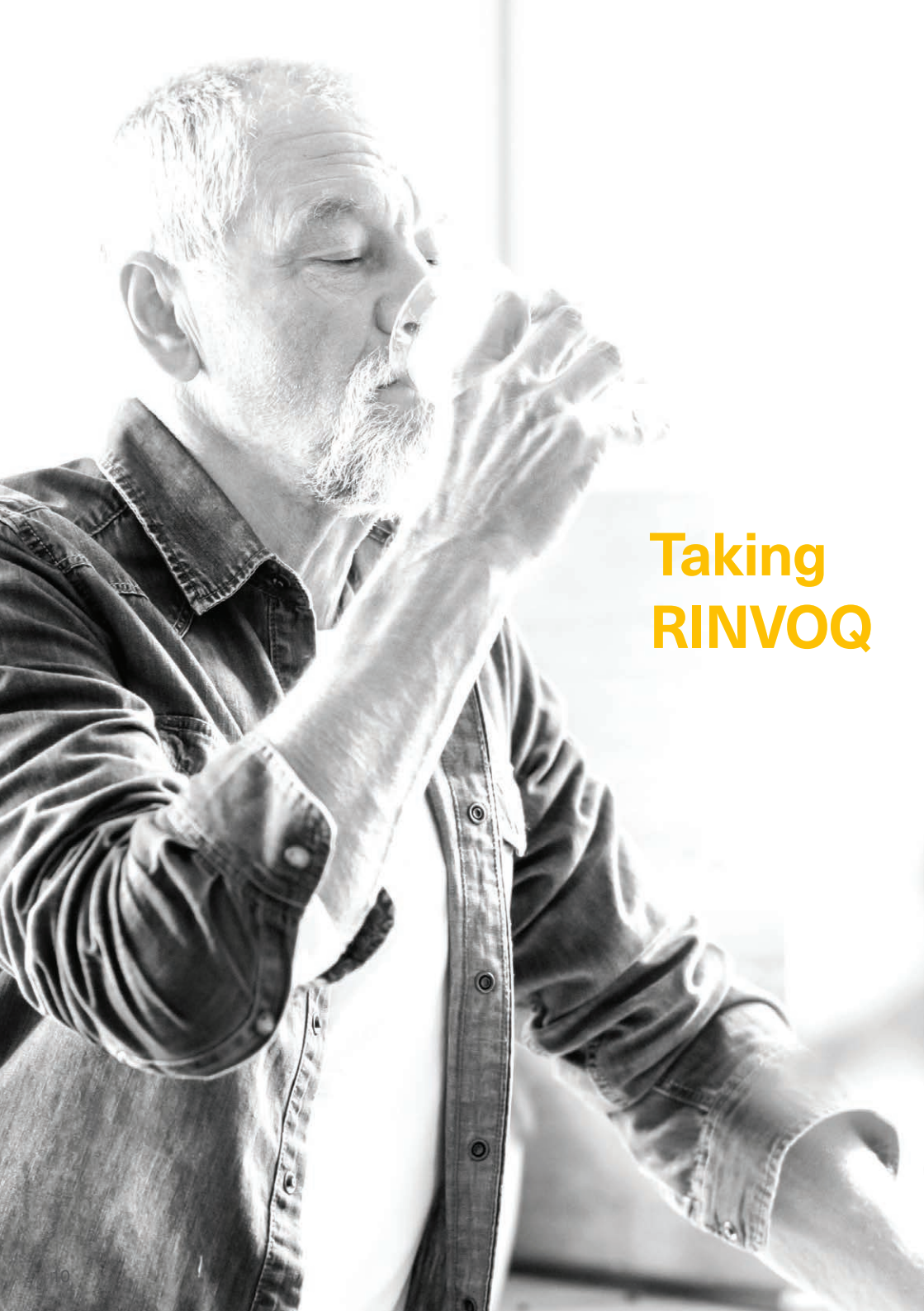
Things to watch out for before and during your RINVOQ treatment

Review the Consumer Medicine Information (available at www.rinvoq.co.nz) for a full list of things to watch out for before starting RINVOQ treatment.

You should always take all the medicines that have been prescribed for you. Do not stop taking a medicine or change the dose without checking with your doctor. Ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse if you have any questions.

Speak to your doctor if you have: **Because:**

<p>An infection, or if you have ever had an infection that keeps coming back.</p>	<p>RINVOQ can reduce your body's ability to fight infections. It may make an infection that you already have worse, or make it more likely for you to get a new infection.</p>
<p>Tuberculosis (TB), a history of TB, have been in close contact with someone with TB or have lived or travelled overseas where TB is a problem.</p>	<p>You may need tests to check for TB before you start taking RINVOQ.</p>
<p>A herpes zoster infection or have had herpes zoster infection (chicken pox/shingles).</p>	<p>RINVOQ may allow it to come back. Tell your doctor if you get a painful skin rash with blisters during RINVOQ treatment as these can be signs of shingles.</p>
<p>Have had hepatitis B or C or are a carrier of the hepatitis B or C virus.</p>	<p>Your doctor will factor this into their monitoring process.</p>
<p>Recently had or plan to have a vaccination (immunisation).</p>	<p>Some vaccines, such as live vaccines, should not be given while you are taking RINVOQ. Check with your doctor before you receive any immunisations.</p>
<p>Had cancer, including skin cancer and lymphomas.</p>	<p>You should tell your doctor if you notice any new or changed spots on your skin. Your doctor will decide if you can still be given RINVOQ.</p>
<p>Had blood clots, for example in the legs (deep vein thrombosis or DVT) or lungs (pulmonary embolism).</p>	<p>See your doctor immediately if you experience signs of blood clots, such as a painful swollen leg, shortness of breath or chest pain.</p>
<p>Liver or kidney problems or if you have high cholesterol or altered blood cell counts.</p>	<p>You may need blood tests before you start taking RINVOQ, or while you are taking it. This is to check if you have a low red blood cell count (anaemia), low white cell count (neutropaenia or lymphopaenia), high cholesterol or high levels of liver enzymes, and your kidney function.</p>
<p>Plans to become pregnant, your partner has plans to become pregnant, or you or your partner are pregnant, breastfeeding or are planning to breastfeed.</p>	<p>Your doctor will discuss with you the risks and benefits of RINVOQ treatment. RINVOQ should not be taken during pregnancy or while breastfeeding.</p>
<p>Have, or have had, heart problems, high blood pressure, or high cholesterol.</p>	<p>You may need blood tests before you start taking RINVOQ, or while you are taking it. This is to check for high cholesterol levels.</p>
<p>You smoke, or have smoked in the past.</p>	<p>Your doctor will decide if RINVOQ is right for you.</p>
<p>Patients over 65 years of age and older.</p>	<p>May be at increased risk of infections, heart problems, including heart attack, and some types of cancer. Your doctor will discuss with you if RINVOQ is appropriate for you.</p>
<p>Have unexplained stomach (abdominal) pain, have or have had diverticulitis (painful inflammation of small pockets in the lining of your intestine) or ulcers in your stomach or intestines, or are taking non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medicines.</p>	<p>Your doctor will discuss whether RINVOQ is right for you.</p>



**Taking
RINVOQ**

For the treatment of AD take RINVOQ as follows:



One or two tablets as prescribed every day with a full glass of water



At the same time each day – with or without food

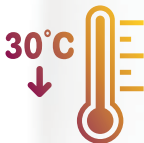


As a whole tablet – do not split, crush or chew it



For as long as your doctor has told you to – continue taking it even if you feel better

How to store RINVOQ:



In a cool, dry place below 30°C (RINVOQ does not need to be refrigerated). Store your tablets in the original blister pack to protect them from moisture. Please talk to your pharmacist if RINVOQ is exposed to a temperature above 30°C.



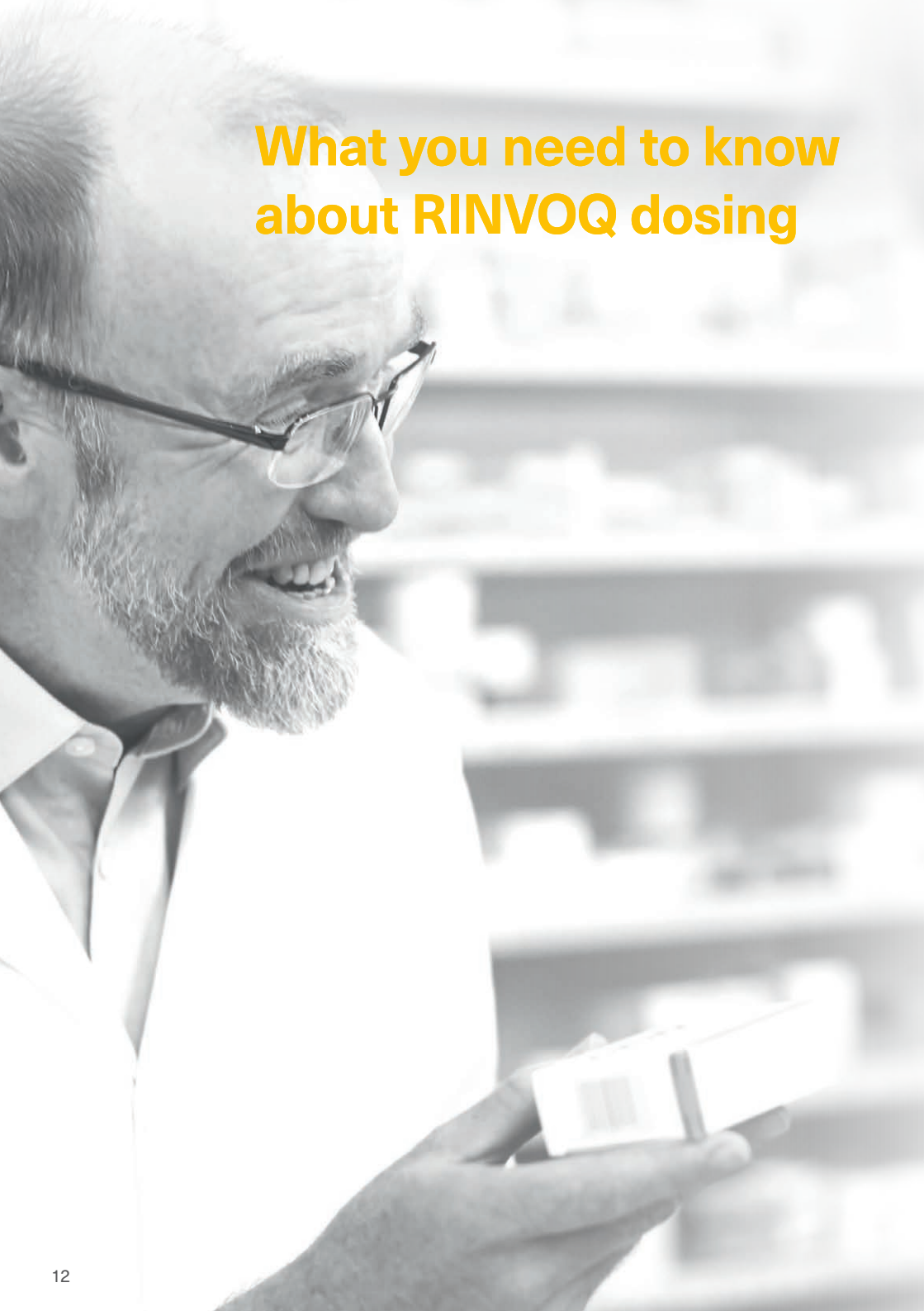
Do not store RINVOQ in the bathroom, near a sink, on a window sill or in the car.



Out of the sight and reach of children – a locked cupboard at least 1.5 metres off the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Remember, do not take RINVOQ if the expiry date has passed. If you need to throw your medicine away, do not throw it out in the household waste, ask your pharmacist how to correctly dispose of it.

What you need to know about RINVOQ dosing



What if I miss a dose?

Take it as soon as you remember as long as it is at least 10 hours before your next dose. Otherwise, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to.

What if I forget my dose for the entire day?

Skip the missed dose and take only a single dose as usual the following day. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten tablet.

Can I miss a dose if my symptoms have improved?

No. Do not stop taking RINVOQ or miss a dose unless your doctor has told you to. RINVOQ helps to control your condition but does not cure it. Atopic dermatitis (AD) is a chronic condition and stopping or interrupting treatment may cause your symptoms to worsen, even if you are feeling better. It is important to keep taking your medicine even if you feel well.

What if I take too much?

Immediately contact your doctor or the National Poisons Centre (0800 764 766) for advice, or go to Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital, even if you are not experiencing any signs of discomfort or poisoning.

How is RINVOQ different from other medications I am taking?

RINVOQ helps reduce the underlying inflammation causing your symptoms and may work differently to other medications you may be taking. Each medication you have been given plays a specific and defined role in your overall health. To get the most from your treatment plan, take all your medications as prescribed – always ask if you are unsure.

Will RINVOQ affect my ability to drive or use a machine?

It is not expected that RINVOQ will have an effect on your ability to drive or use machines.

Can I drink alcohol while taking RINVOQ?

There is no information on the effects of taking RINVOQ with alcohol.

Possible side effects to look out for

Like all medicines, RINVOQ can cause side effects. However, everyone is different. Some people may experience side effects and others may not. Make sure to tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist as soon as possible if you start to feel unwell while taking RINVOQ.

Speak to your doctor if you have any of these common side effects and they are worrying you

- Sore or scratchy throat
- Blocked or runny nose
- Fever
- Cough
- Feeling sick in the tummy
- Weight gain
- Acne
- Cold sores
- Inflammation (swelling) of the hair follicles
- Flu (influenza)
- Anaemia
- Headache
- Pain in your belly (abdomen)
- Fatigue (feeling unusually tired and weak)
- Hives (urticaria)
- Painful skin rash with blisters

Call your doctor straight away if you notice any of these serious side effects

RINVOQ can reduce your body's ability to fight infection, and make an infection that you already had worse, or make it more likely that you get a new infection. In some cases the infection can be life threatening. **Tell your doctor as soon as possible** if you notice any of the following:

Signs of a serious infection

- Fever, sweating or chills
- Feeling short of breath
- Cough
- Warm, red or painful skin sores on your body
- Feeling tired or lacking energy
- Muscle aches
- Diarrhoea
- Tummy pain
- Weight loss
- Burning when passing urine or passing urine more often
- Blood in phlegm or mucus

Signs of tuberculosis include

- Persistent cough
- Weight loss
- Night sweats
- Fever

Go straight to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital if you have any signs of these very serious side effects:

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include

- Shortness of breath
- Wheezing or difficulty breathing
- Swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body
- Rash, itching or hives on the skin

Signs of the effect of a blood clot

- Painful swollen leg
- Chest pain
- Shortness of breath

Signs of a heart attack

- Chest pain or discomfort
- Lightheadedness, nausea, or vomiting
- Pain in the jaw, neck or back
- Pain or discomfort in the arm or shoulder
- Shortness of breath

Signs of a stroke

- Trouble speaking or difficulty understanding speech
- Sudden numbness, weakness or paralysis in the face, arm or leg of one side of the body
- Problems seeing in one or both eyes
- Headache
- Trouble walking

For more details on possible side effects, review the Consumer Medicine Information (available at www.rinvoq.co.nz). Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything else that may be making you feel unwell. Other side effects not listed here may occur in some people.

Your doctor may ask you to temporarily stop your RINVOQ treatment if you develop a serious infection or if your blood test results are outside of the normal range. If this happens, your doctor will tell you when you can restart taking RINVOQ.

Tips on including RINVOQ in your daily routine

Pick the right time for you



You should take RINVOQ at the same time every day, so picking a time that suits you is important. Taking RINVOQ straight after one of your everyday activities (such as brushing your teeth) can help. You don't need to plan your medication around your meal time. RINVOQ can be taken with or without food.

Create a self-care ritual



Add taking RINVOQ to the time you dedicate to looking after yourself such as after meditation or a 10 minute stretching session.

Set a reminder



Set up a reminder on your phone or on a calendar somewhere visible to help you to remember to take RINVOQ every day.

You could always ask a family member to remind you too – having more than one reminder can be helpful.

Stay motivated



Don't lose sight of why you are taking RINVOQ – stick to a routine and form good habits to help you get the most out of your treatment.

How long does it take to build a routine? One research study suggests it can take an average of 66 days for a behaviour to become automatic. See the next page for a tool to help you with your RINVOQ Routine.

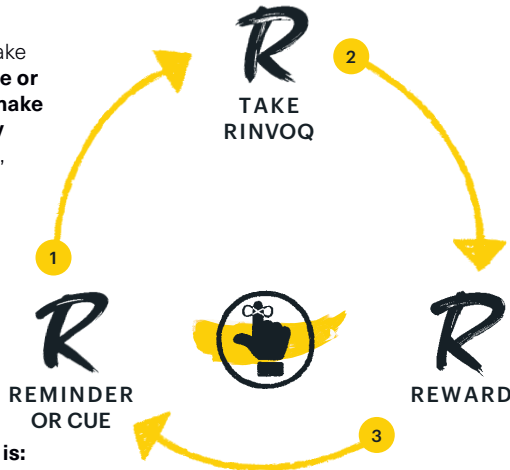
My RINVOQ Routine

A regular routine helps to remind you to take your RINVOQ pill each day, as prescribed by your HCP. Before long, it will be a natural part of your day.

My Personal Goal: _____

Choose something that is meaningful to you that you'd like to work toward.

It's easy to forget to take your pill. **A simple cue or reminder can help make it a part of your daily routine.** For example, place your pill bottle next to your tea bags.



Connecting a reinforcement right after taking a pill can help to build a daily routine.
Do something you enjoy such as sitting down with a cup of your favourite tea.

My reminder or cue is:

My reward is:



Create a good back-up plan. Weekends and travel can make sticking to your routine a challenge. It can help to have back-up reminders that would work in those situations.

My back-up plan is:

Your AD is a chronic inflammatory condition. It's important to remember to take your treatment daily as prescribed, even if you are feeling well. Taking RINVOQ every day keeps the levels of medicine in your body stable to give it the best chance of being successful in treating your condition.

Useful Resources for Atopic Dermatitis

The following external organisations provide a wealth of resources and information for people living with atopic dermatitis.

New Zealand Resources

Eczema Association of New Zealand (EANZ)

A national voluntary organisation which represents the interests of those with eczema. It contains information on the condition and its treatment.

eczema.org.nz/

Health Navigator New Zealand

The Health Navigator website provides one place for New Zealanders to find reliable and trustworthy health information and self-care resources.

It focuses on promoting clear, consistent messages that enable users to get the information they need at the time they need it.

healthnavigator.org.nz/health-a-z/e/eczema/

DermNet NZ

DermNet NZ website provides authoritative information about skin diseases, conditions and treatment for patients and their health professionals.

dermnetnz.org/topics/atopic-dermatitis/

Visit www.rinvoq.co.nz – for things you need to know about your RINVOQ treatment



This website provides general information for people who have been prescribed RINVOQ. It is not a substitute for advice given by a healthcare professional.

Overseas Resources

Please note that treatment available in other countries may not be available in New Zealand.

National Eczema Society UK

The United Kingdom's charity for everyone affected by eczema. You'll find information on the condition and its treatment.

eczema.org

National Eczema Association USA

An American organization which represents the interests of those with eczema. Find information on the condition and its treatment.

nationaleczema.org/get-support

American Academy of Dermatology Association

Information on atopic dermatitis self-care.

aad.org/public/diseases/eczema/types/atopic-dermatitis/self-care

The Eczema Association of Australasia (EAA)

An Australasian organisation which represents the interests of those with eczema. You'll find information about managing the condition.

eczema.org.au

Skin Health Institute Australia

Provides information on a range of groups that provide patient support services for those affected by various dermatology conditions.

skinhealthinstitute.org.au/page/108/patient-support-groups

Important information about RINVOQ

RINVOQ is a prescription medicine containing upadacitinib hemihydrate and is available as modified release tablets each equivalent to 15 mg, 30mg or 45mg of upadacitinib. It is used for the treatment of moderate to severe active rheumatoid arthritis, active psoriatic arthritis, active ankylosing spondylitis, active non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis, moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis and moderately to severely active Crohn's disease in adults, and moderate to severe atopic dermatitis in adults and adolescents 12 years and older. **RINVOQ has risks and benefits. Do not use RINVOQ if you have:** an allergy to any medicines containing upadacitinib or any of the other ingredients in RINVOQ listed in the Consumer Medicines Information (CMI). Do not take the medicine after the expiry date. **Before you use RINVOQ, tell your doctor if you have (or have had):** allergies to any medicines, foods, preservatives or dyes; an infection or a history of infections that keep coming back; tuberculosis, or you have been in close contact with someone who has had tuberculosis; herpes infection (shingles); hepatitis B or C; cancer or at high risk of developing skin cancer; heart problems, high blood pressure or high cholesterol; smoked or are currently a smoker; liver problems; kidney problems; blood clots in the veins of your legs or lungs; unexplained stomach pain, have or have had diverticulitis or ulcers in your stomach or intestines, or are taking non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medicines; recently received or plan to receive a vaccine (patients taking RINVOQ should not receive live vaccines); are pregnant or plan on becoming pregnant; or are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. You may need blood tests before you start taking RINVOQ, or while you are taking it. Tell your doctor if you are 65 years of age or older. Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you notice signs of a serious infection such as: fever, sweating or chills, feeling short of breath, warm, red or painful skin sores on your body, feeling tired, muscle aches, blood in your mucous, diarrhoea/stomach pain, cough, weight loss, burning when you pass urine or passing urine more often than normal. Tell your doctor immediately or go to your nearest hospital if you take too much RINVOQ (overdose), even without discomfort or signs of poisoning. **Tell your doctor and other health care professionals:** if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you get without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop. Some medicines may affect RINVOQ how well it works, or they may be affected by RINVOQ. Avoid food or drink containing grapefruit. Tell all doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are using RINVOQ. **Common side effects:** Tell your doctor if you feel unwell while taking RINVOQ. The more common side effects of RINVOQ include; throat or nose infection; cough; fever; feeling sick in the stomach; weight gain; cold sores; painful skin rash with blisters and fever; acne; swelling of the hair follicles; flu; anaemia; pain in your belly; fatigue; headache; rash/hives. **If you have any questions about using RINVOQ, including the risks and benefits, how much to use, how and when to use it, or the storage conditions, ask your healthcare professional and refer to the Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) available from abbvie.ie/nz-rin-cmi or freephone 0800 900 030. Ask your doctor if RINVOQ is right for you. Use strictly as directed. If symptoms continue, or you have side effects, see your doctor, pharmacist or healthcare professional.**

RINVOQ is fully funded under Special Authority for the treatment of eligible patients with rheumatoid arthritis – normal pharmacy prescription charges apply. RINVOQ is not funded for psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis, atopic dermatitis, ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease – you will need to pay the full cost of this medicine. Normal pharmacy and doctor's charges will apply. RINVOQ-Min-CMI, v11, 16 August 2023.



You can access a copy of the
Consumer Medicine Information
(CMI) by scanning the QR code.

abbvie.ie/nz-rin-cmi

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