

Pr **Vascepa**[®]
(icosapent ethyl)



Starting Your Journey with Vascepa[®]

Learn about your medication



HLS Therapeutics[®]

About Vascepa®

What is Vascepa® used for?



Vascepa® is used to lower your risk of:

- ▶ dying from heart disease
- ▶ having a heart attack or stroke
- ▶ having certain types of heart surgery, or
- ▶ having to be hospitalized for unstable angina

Vascepa® is used in adults who have high levels of triglycerides (a type of fat found in your blood), are currently taking cholesterol-lowering medications called statins, and who have a high risk of experiencing heart-related problems due to:

- ▶ an existing heart condition, or
- ▶ diabetes and at least one other heart-related problem

How does Vascepa® work?



Vascepa® contains a type of omega-3 fatty acid from fish oil called eicosapentanoic acid (EPA). The exact way that Vascepa® works is not known; however, it does help lower the amount of triglycerides made by your body.

Taking Vascepa®

How should you take Vascepa®?



Take Vascepa® with your meals and swallow the capsules whole. Do not break open, crush, dissolve, or chew Vascepa® before swallowing.

What is the usual dose of Vascepa®?

2

1 g capsules,
twice daily



AM



PM

What should you do if you miss a dose of Vascepa®?

If you miss a **dose** of
Vascepa®:

Take it as soon as you remember

If you miss taking
Vascepa® for one **day**:

Do not double your dose when you
take your next dose

What should you do if you take too much Vascepa®?

If you think you have taken too much Vascepa®, contact your healthcare professional, hospital emergency department, or regional poison control centre immediately, even if you have no symptoms.

Things to Know Before Taking Vascepa®



You should not use Vascepa® if you are allergic to icosapent ethyl or any of the other ingredients in Vascepa®.

How can you help avoid side effects and ensure proper use while taking Vascepa®?

To help avoid side effects and ensure proper use, talk to your healthcare professional about any health conditions or problems you may have before you take Vascepa®, including if you:



- ▶ are allergic to fish or shellfish. It is not known if people who are allergic to fish or shellfish are also allergic to Vascepa®



- ▶ are taking other omega-3 fatty acid products. Do not take other omega-3 fatty acid products while you are taking Vascepa®



- ▶ are taking medication to reduce the formation of blood clots (anticoagulants or anti-platelet medications, including aspirin). If so, you may be at increased risk of bleeding. Your doctor should monitor you if you are taking Vascepa® with these types of medications



- ▶ have liver problems



- ▶ are pregnant or are planning to become pregnant. It is not known if Vascepa® will harm your unborn baby. You should not take Vascepa® while pregnant



- ▶ are breastfeeding or planning to breastfeed. Vascepa® may pass into your breast milk and may harm your baby. You should not take Vascepa® while breastfeeding

What are possible side effects of Vascepa®?

Vascepa® may cause constipation. What to do about the following serious side effects:



If severe, talk to your doctor if you experience swelling of the hands, feet, ankles, and lower legs.



If you experience irregular heart rhythm or palpitations, stop taking Vascepa® immediately and get immediate medical help.



If you experience unusual bleeding, stop taking Vascepa® immediately and get immediate medical help.



If you have a troublesome symptom or side effect that is not listed here or becomes bad enough to interfere with your daily activities, talk to your healthcare professional.

Are there any medications that interact with Vascepa®?

You should tell your doctor about all the other medicines you are taking. These include:



Drugs



Vitamins and minerals



Natural supplements
or alternative medicines

Vascepa® may interact with certain medicines you are taking, including:

- ▶ other omega-3 fatty acids
- ▶ medicines to reduce the formation of blood clots such as anticoagulants and anti-platelet medications, including aspirin

These are not all the possible side effects you may feel when taking Vascepa®. Talk to your doctor if you experience any other symptoms.

Help prepare for your journey with Vascepa®

Getting to know important health terms

Cardiovascular disease:	disease of the circulatory system, which includes the heart and blood vessels
Cholesterol:	a type of fat found in the blood; there are several types of cholesterol
Heart attack (myocardial infarction):	when the blood flow through part of the heart becomes suddenly blocked
Statin:	a cholesterol-lowering medication
Stroke:	when a blood vessel in the brain suddenly becomes blocked or breaks open and bleeds
Triglycerides:	a type of fat found in the blood
Unstable angina:	a condition in which the heart does not get enough blood flow and oxygen

For more information, please refer to the
Patient Medication Information Leaflet that
came with your prescription of Vascepa®
or visit vascepa.ca.

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