

- Bone marrow suppression and peripheral neuropathy are sometimes observed with prolonged therapy (more than 14 days) and regular haematological and neurological monitoring are recommended.

- Due to its monoamine oxidase inhibitory activity, blood pressure can increase when linezolid is used in combination with dopamine, adrenaline, serotonergic drugs (eg selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, monoamine oxidase inhibitors, tramadol, pethidine), pseudoephedrine, and foods with a high tyramine content.

- There have been reports of serotonin syndrome and coadministration with serotonergic drugs should be avoided.

### adverse effects

## linezolid

### general

- It is available in the form of injections, tablets and an oral suspension. (All are expensive.)
- Therapy with linezolid is reserved for multidrug-resistant infections and should be commenced in hospital.

### mechanism of action

- Linezolid inhibits an early step in bacterial protein synthesis.

### spectrum of action

- It is effective against Gram-positive organisms, including methicillin-resistant strains of *Staphylococcus aureus*, coagulase-negative staphylococci, VRE, and penicillin-resistant strains of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.