



[Home](#)

2. [Ella](#)

# ella

**Generic name:** [ulipristal](#) [ *UE-li-PRIS-tal* ]

**Drug class:** [Progesterone receptor modulators](#)

[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com. Last updated on Aug 23, 2023.

[Uses](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Side effects](#) [Interactions](#) [FAQ](#)

## What is ella?

ella is an [emergency contraceptive](#). It works by stopping or delaying the release of an egg from an ovary. Ulipristal may also make it harder for a fertilized egg to attach to the uterus.

ella is used to prevent pregnancy after having sex without using a condom or other effective birth control method. It is also used to prevent pregnancy after a regular form of birth control has failed. This medicine is not to be used as a regular form of daily, weekly, or monthly birth control.

**ELLA SHOULD NOT BE USED TO TERMINATE AN EXISTING PREGNANCY.**

## Warnings

ella is not to be used as a regular form of daily, weekly, or monthly birth control.

**ella can harm an unborn baby or cause birth defects. Do not use if you are already pregnant or think you might be pregnant.**

Before you take this medicine, tell your doctor if you have a history of ectopic (tubal) pregnancy, or if your last menstrual period was less than 4 weeks ago. Also tell your doctor about all other medicines you use.

Call your doctor if your next menstrual period is more than 1 week late. You will need a pregnancy test to make sure you are not pregnant. Do not take a second course. Call your doctor at once if you have severe pain in your lower stomach (especially on only one side) 3 to 5 weeks after using this medicine.

## Before taking this medicine

You should not use ella if you have already confirmed that you are pregnant, or if you are allergic to ulipristal.

Do not use this medicine if you have not yet started having menstrual periods, or if you are past menopause.

To make sure this medicine is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- an ectopic (tubal) pregnancy; or

- if your last menstrual period was more than 4 weeks ago.

This medicine can harm an unborn baby or cause birth defects. **Do not use emergency contraception if you are already pregnant or think you might be pregnant.**

Ulipristal can pass into breast milk and may harm a nursing baby. You should not breast-feed while using this medicine.

 [Ella pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

## How should I take ella?

Take ella exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Follow all directions on your prescription label. Do not take this medicine in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended.

ella is usually given as soon as possible after unprotected sex or failed birth control method (such as a condom that broke during sex). Follow your doctor's dosing instructions very carefully. ella can be taken any time during your menstrual cycle, but you must use the medicine within 5 days (120 hours) after unprotected sex.

If you vomit within 3 hours after taking the tablet, your medication may not be as effective. Call your doctor to discuss the need for taking another dose.

You may take this medicine with or without food.

After taking ella, you should use a barrier form of birth control (condom or diaphragm with spermicide) at least until your next menstrual period. Ulipristal can make hormonal contraception less effective. This includes birth control pills, injections, implants, skin patches, and vaginal rings.

**You should wait at least 5 days after taking ella before you start using hormonal birth control (birth control pills, injections, implants, skin patches, vaginal rings).** Both ulipristal and hormonal birth control may be less effective when used at the same time. You may need to use a barrier form of birth control until your hormonal birth control takes effect

Store in the original container at room temperature, away from moisture, heat, and light.

Contact your doctor if your next menstrual period is more than 1 week late. You will need a pregnancy test to make sure you are not pregnant. **Do not take a second course of ella.**

## Dosing information

### Usual Adult Dose for Contraception:

One 30 mg tablet orally as soon as possible within 120 hours (5 days) after unprotected intercourse or a known or suspected contraceptive failure

Comments:

- Take with or without food.
- Do not eat grapefruit or drink grapefruit juice during treatment.
- The drug can be taken at any time during the menstrual cycle.

Use: Prevention of pregnancy following unprotected intercourse or a known or suspected contraceptive failure

## What happens if I miss a dose?

Since this medicine is used only once when needed, it does not have a daily dosing schedule.

## What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

## What to avoid

ella will not protect you from sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV and AIDS. Using a condom is the only way to protect yourself from these diseases.

## ella side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have any **signs of an allergic reaction to ella**: hives; difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

**Call your doctor at once or seek emergency medical attention if you have severe pain in your lower stomach (especially on only one side) 3 to 5 weeks after using ella.**

Common ella side effects may include:

- headache;
- dizziness, tired feeling;
- nausea, stomach pain; or
- menstrual pain.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

## Related/similar drugs

### Mirena

Mirena (levonorgestrel) is a plastic intrauterine device placed in the uterus and is used to ...

### Reviews & ratings

6.1 / 10

[2,624 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Aviane

Aviane is used as contraception to prevent pregnancy. Includes side effects, interactions and ...

### Reviews & ratings

6.1 / 10

[554 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

### FEATURED

## Ozempic

Learn about Ozempic (semaglutide) for type 2 diabetes treatment, weight management, cardiovascular ...

### Reviews & ratings

6.6 / 10

[1,504 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Kyleena

The Kyleena IUD is placed in your uterus by your healthcare provider to prevent pregnancy for up to ...

### Reviews & ratings

6.6 / 10

[1,637 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Liletta

Liletta (levonorgestrel) is an intrauterine device (IUD) used to prevent pregnancy and also to ...

### Reviews & ratings

5.5 / 10

[647 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Skyla

Skyla (levonorgestrel intrauterine system) is flexible plastic T-shaped device used for prevention ...

### Reviews & ratings

6.9 / 10

[1,537 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## What other drugs will affect ella?

Tell your doctor about all medicines you use, and those you start or stop using during your treatment with this medicine, especially:

- birth control pill;
- bosentan;
- griseofulvin;
- St. John's Wort;
- rifampin;
- topiramate;
- a barbiturate--butabarbital, secobarbital, pentobarbital, phenobarbital; or
- seizure medicine--carbamazepine, felbamate, oxcarbazepine, phenytoin.

This list is not complete. Other drugs may interact with ulipristal, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products. Not all possible interactions are listed in this medication guide.

 [Ella drug interactions](#) (more detail)

## Does ella interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

+

Add

## Popular FAQ

What's the weight limit for Plan B?



## References

1. [Ella Product Label](#)

## More about ella (ulipristal)

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(771\)](#)
- [Drug images](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Generic availability](#)
- [FDA approval history](#)
- [Drug class: progesterone receptor modulators](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)
- [En español](#)

## Professional resources

- [Ella prescribing information](#)
- [Ulipristal \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

## Related treatment guides

- [Emergency Contraception](#)

## Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medicine only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

Copyright 1996-2025 Cerner Multum, Inc. Version: 3.01.

DRUG STATUS

| Availability  |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Rx  | Prescription only     |
| Pregnancy & Lactation   |                       |
|  | Risk data available   |
| CSA Schedule*   |                       |
| N/A   | Not a controlled drug |
| Approval History  |                       |
| 10+ years   | FDA approved 2010     |

User Reviews & Ratings

7.1 / 10

771 Reviews

Related News

Abortion Pill Alternative Found in Morning-After Pill

Images

Ella ulipristal acetate 30 mg (ella ella)

Drugs.com Mobile App

Access drug & treatment information, identify pills, check interactions and set up personal medication records.



About

- About Drugs.com
- Advertising policy
- Attribution & citations

Terms & privacy

- Terms of use
- Editorial policy
- Privacy policy

## Support

[Help center](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Contact us](#)



[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) for the latest medication news, new drug approvals and FDA alerts.

**Drugs.com** provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Data sources include Micromedex (updated 7 Apr 2025), Cerner Multum™ (updated 13 Apr 2025), ASHP (updated 10 Apr 2025) and others.



Ad Choices  
ADVERTISEMENT



Copyright © 2000-2025 Drugs.com. All rights reserved.