

Doptelet approved for liver disease patients slated for a medical procedure

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(HealthDay)—Doptelet (avatrombopag) has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat adults with chronic liver disease who are slated to have a medical or dental procedure.

People with ongoing liver disease often have low blood platelet count, which raises their risk for dangerous bleeding during a medical procedure, the agency said Monday in a news release.

"This drug may decrease or eliminate the need for platelet transfusions, which are associated with risk of infection and other [adverse reactions](#)," said Dr. Richard Pazdur, director of the agency's Oncology Center of Excellence.

The drug was evaluated in a pair of clinical studies involving a total of 435 people with [chronic liver disease](#) and low blood platelets. The most common side effects included fever, stomach pain, nausea, headache, fatigue, and swelling of the hands or feet. An elevated risk of blood-clot formation was a less common but more serious adverse reaction, the FDA said.

The drug is produced by the Japanese pharma firm AkaRx.

More information: Johns Hopkins Medicine has more about [chronic liver disease](#).

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