

Tracleer™ is Here!!

Now, an oral treatment for pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) related to scleroderma has been approved by the FDA. PAH is a serious condition that can occur in scleroderma patients. Because PAH is a leading cause of mortality and principal source of morbidity in scleroderma-related disorders, it is important to raise awareness of this potentially life-threatening condition.

PH is often mis- and under-diagnosed because early symptoms can be confused with those of other conditions. Some of the early symptoms of PAH include:

- Dyspnea (shortness of breath)
- Chronic fatigue (feeling tired all the time)
- Dizziness, especially upon exertion
- Fainting
- Edema (swollen ankles and legs)
- Chest pain, especially during physical activity

It is important to get an accurate diagnosis. A series of tests can be done to confirm a diagnosis of PAH. These tests may include:

Echocardiogram	CT or CAT scan
Electrocardiogram (ECG)	Assessment of function in tasks of daily living
Right heart catheterization	Pulmonary function tests

Tracleer™ (bosentan) is the first oral medication approved by the FDA to treat patients with PAH (Class III and IV), which is defined as high blood pressure in the lungs. Tracleer™ works in a different way from any other treatment now available for PAH—it helps to block the harmful effects of endothelin. In normal amounts, endothelin plays a minor role in blood flow. However, in diseases such as PAH and other diseases including scleroderma, abnormal amounts of endothelin are produced. This contributes to the tightening of blood vessels and can affect the blood pressure in the lungs and the severity of other problems associated with PAH.

In clinical trials, Tracleer™ was studied in patients with both primary pulmonary hypertension and patients with pulmonary hypertension secondary to connective tissue disease (scleroderma and lupus). Tracleer has been shown to offer several important benefits to patients with PAH:

- Tracleer can improve symptoms and improve the ability to perform normal daily activities
- Tracleer can slow the worsening of a patient's physical condition and symptoms
- Tracleer can lower high blood pressure in the lungs
- Tracleer can enable the heart to pump blood more effectively

There are two important issues that every patient must know:

- Tracleer™ may cause liver damage; therefore, liver monitoring is necessary
- Tracleer™ may cause birth defects; therefore, it is essential that patients on Tracleer™ are not pregnant and do not become pregnant

With Tracleer™, patients have found that they can walk farther without resting, that they can breathe more easily, and can better perform the tasks of daily living. However, every individual responds to treatment in different ways. It is important to discuss treatment with your doctor. If you would like more information on Tracleer™ you can call 1-866-228-3546 or visit [www.tracleer.com](http://www.tracleer.com).