Doptelet access in Egypt

How Egyptian families pursue avatrombopag for thrombocytopenia in chronic liver disease and chronic immune thrombocytopenia via the EDA named-patient pathway.

Last reviewed 2026-05-12 by Reserve Meds clinical and regulatory team. This page combines the Egypt country research module with the Doptelet drug module to describe the path families actually walk.

Quick orientation

Doptelet (avatrombopag) is an oral thrombopoietin receptor agonist developed by Dova Pharmaceuticals and now marketed by Sobi (Swedish Orphan Biovitrum), approximately acquired through the Dova acquisition. The US Food and Drug Administration approved Doptelet in May 2018 for thrombocytopenia in adults with chronic liver disease scheduled to undergo a procedure, and in June 2019 for chronic immune thrombocytopenia (ITP) in adults who have had an insufficient response to a previous treatment. It is dosed orally with food, typically 60 mg daily for 5 days starting 10 to 13 days before a scheduled procedure in the chronic liver disease indication, and titrated based on platelet count in ITP. For an Egyptian patient who needs platelet support to undergo elective surgery, endoscopy, or another invasive procedure, Doptelet replaces the older pattern of pre-procedure platelet transfusion. Reserved for you.

Why this drug is hard to source in Egypt

Doptelet is approximately not registered with the Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA) in our review, and a locally registered alternative thrombopoietin receptor agonist is not always clinically equivalent for the patient's specific indication. The two patterns are familiar. First, the drug exists on the FDA-approved list but the manufacturer never pursued Egyptian registration because the named-patient population is small relative to the registration cost. Second, even where eltrombopag (Promacta or Revolade) is locally available as the alternative oral thrombopoietin agonist, the clinical profile, food interactions, and dose convenience of avatrombopag differ in ways that matter for the individual patient. The treating hepatologist or haematologist decides whether the alternative is clinically suitable. Where it is not, the EDA named-patient pathway is the route.

Currency cost is the second pressure. Doptelet runs approximately USD 7,000 to 10,000 for a 5-day course in the chronic liver disease procedure indication, and substantially more for ongoing ITP therapy. With the Egyptian pound near 52 to 53 per US dollar in May 2026, the

EGP-denominated bill has more than doubled since early 2022 as the pound has depreciated. Reserve Meds quotes in USD for this reason.

The EDA named-patient pathway

The Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA), established by Law No. 151 of 2019 and operating under the Prime Minister, permits the importation of medicines for a specific patient where no equivalent registered product is available locally, or where the available quantity of an equivalent registered product cannot meet the patient's clinical need. For a Doptelet case, the filing posture is Personal Importation. The dispensing institution, typically the private specialty hospital pharmacy or the academic hospital import desk where the procedure is scheduled, files with EDA.

The standard application package includes a clinical justification letter from the treating physician on hospital letterhead with hospital stamp, stating the diagnosis (chronic liver disease with thrombocytopenia and a scheduled procedure, or chronic ITP with insufficient response to prior therapy), the baseline platelet count, the prior therapy history (corticosteroids, IVIG, rituximab, splenectomy, eltrombopag where applicable), the scheduled procedure details for the liver disease indication, and the rationale for avatrombopag specifically; a recent prescription specifying brand name (Doptelet), generic name (avatrombopag), strength (20 mg tablets), quantity for the planned course; the patient's national ID or passport copy; the treating physician's Egyptian Medical Syndicate membership number and Ministry of Health licence reference; product details including manufacturer (Sobi); the destination dispensing facility licence; and the chain-of-custody plan for the room-temperature shipment to Cairo International Airport.

Real costs in EGP and USD

Reserve Meds quotes in USD and accepts USD wire transfers. The US wholesale acquisition cost for Doptelet runs approximately USD 7,000 to 10,000 for a standard 5-day, 60 mg daily course in the chronic liver disease procedure indication. For chronic ITP therapy on a long-term daily basis, the cumulative cost runs substantially higher depending on dose intensity and duration. International logistics from the US source to Cairo for a room-temperature oral tablet shipment typically run USD 200 to 600 per shipment. Regulatory documentation handling on the Egyptian side varies by dispensing facility, and the Reserve Meds concierge fee is itemized on every firm quote and is never bundled.

The transparent USD quote insulates the family from intra-case EGP movement. We do not perform currency conversion and we do not hold local-currency accounts. Many Egyptian families coordinate USD funds through relatives in the Gulf, the UK, or North America, and Reserve Meds runs the patient-side coordination in Arabic and the family-side coordination in English in parallel.

Timing, what to expect

Routine EDA personal-import authorisations for procedural-prep cases typically process in 15 to 30 business days from submission of a complete package. Complex submissions or first-time files for a particular dispensing facility can extend to 8 to 12 weeks. For the chronic liver disease procedure indication, the dosing window is tight: Doptelet is taken for 5 days starting 10 to 13 days before the procedure, with the procedure performed 5 to 8 days after the last dose. The case timeline requires the EDA permit, the US sourcing, the international logistics, and the dispensing pharmacy hand-off all aligned to the scheduled procedure date. Reserve Meds plans the lead time backward from the procedure to avoid a delay.

For ongoing ITP therapy, the rhythm is a continuous cycle with the EDA permit covering a defined quantity and time window, and the cycle resets on the next approval. The cold-chain pressure is lower than for biologics because Doptelet is room-temperature stable.

What your physician needs

The treating physician on a Doptelet case in Egypt is typically a hepatologist, gastroenterologist, or haematologist depending on the indication. The clinical justification letter typically addresses the diagnosis with supporting laboratory data, the baseline platelet count, the prior therapy history, the scheduled procedure for the liver disease indication, the rationale for avatrombopag over locally available alternatives such as eltrombopag, and the planned dose and duration. The treating physician's Egyptian Medical Syndicate membership and active Ministry of Health licence are the cornerstone of the application.

The dispensing facility, whether Cairo University Hospitals (Kasr Al Ainy), Ain Shams University Hospitals, or a private specialty hospital in the Cleopatra group, Dar Al Fouad, or As-Salam International, must hold a current pharmaceutical establishment licence. Reserve Meds supplies the physician-facing documentation kit. Filing remains with the dispensing facility.

UPA, Universal Health Insurance, and the private-pay context

Egypt's Universal Health Insurance (UHI) system, launched under Law No. 2 of 2018 and operated by the Universal Health Insurance Authority (UHIA), is in mid-rollout across six geographic clusters through 2032. For named-patient Doptelet imports in 2026, UHIA coverage is not the funding path for most patients in most governorates. Cash-pay or private insurance reimbursement is.

The Unified Procurement Authority (UPA), Egypt's centralised public-sector medicines procurement agency, handles bulk purchasing for public hospitals. Where Doptelet is not in the UPA-procured catalogue, the named-patient framework is the practical route. The private-pay context applies where the patient is treated in a private specialty hospital or where the public-sector alternative is not clinically suitable. Bupa Egypt, AXA Egypt, MetLife Egypt, Allianz Egypt, Misr Insurance, and other carriers assess Doptelet claims case by case, and pre-authorisation is the norm. We do not promise coverage from any insurer.

Pharmacovigilance and cold-chain

Doptelet tablets are stored at room temperature, which simplifies the chain-of-custody documentation compared to refrigerated biologics. The shipment plan in the EDA submission identifies the freight forwarder, the expected port of entry (typically Cairo International Airport), and the receiving facility's confirmation of secure storage. Reserve Meds confirms the receiving facility's confirmation before initiating shipment.

Egypt operates an active national pharmacovigilance system through the Egyptian Pharmacovigilance Center (EPVC), part of EDA. The treating physician and dispensing pharmacy retain pharmacovigilance responsibility for the duration of therapy, including adverse drug reaction reporting through EPVC using Yellow Card or CIOMS forms. Avatrombopag carries a risk of thromboembolic events particularly in chronic liver disease patients and platelet count monitoring is part of the treating team's plan. Reserve Meds does not file adverse-event reports on behalf of physicians; that obligation is tied to the local licence and stays with the treating clinician. We include the EPVC reference contacts in the physician documentation kit.

Common questions about Doptelet in Egypt

Why Doptelet rather than eltrombopag (Promacta or Revolade)? Eltrombopag is the alternative oral thrombopoietin receptor agonist and is more broadly available regionally. Avatrombopag does not require dietary restrictions (eltrombopag has significant food and cation interactions requiring a 2-hour fasting window) and has a different dose and titration profile. The clinical choice rests with the treating physician.

Will my insurance cover this? Bupa Egypt, AXA Egypt, MetLife Egypt, Allianz Egypt, Misr Insurance, and other carriers assess claims case by case. We do not promise coverage. We supply the documentation an insurer would request.

Can I take Doptelet at home? Yes. Doptelet is an oral tablet taken at home with food. Dispensing remains through a licensed pharmacy. The patient does not need to be in an infusion centre for administration.

What if my procedure date moves? The 5-day course is taken 10 to 13 days before the procedure. If the procedure shifts, the treating physician adjusts the dosing window accordingly. The EDA permit covers a defined quantity and time window; a meaningful shift may require a supplementary filing.

Is Doptelet a controlled substance? No. Doptelet is not a DEA scheduled substance. Reserve Meds does not handle controlled substances. The standard EDA personal-import framework applies.

What about paediatric ITP? Doptelet was FDA-approved in adults; paediatric thrombopoietin receptor agonist use in ITP typically uses eltrombopag under its paediatric indication. Reserve Meds does not coordinate Doptelet for off-label paediatric use.

Our family is split between Cairo and the Gulf, can you coordinate in both places? Yes. Reserve Meds runs the patient-side coordination in Arabic where requested and the family-side coordination in English in parallel, with a single named coordinator running the case end to end. We support family correspondence across the UAE, Saudi Arabia, the UK, North America, and elsewhere in the Egyptian diaspora.

Cairo and the regional context

Cairo is the dominant import gateway for Egypt and Cairo International Airport handles the vast majority of pharmaceutical air freight. Secondary capacity exists at Alexandria. For Doptelet specifically, the room-temperature shipment profile means the practical bottleneck is regulatory documentation and customs clearance rather than cold-chain logistics. The dispensing facility or licensed importer handles customs clearance on the Egyptian side, and Reserve Meds aligns the US-side sourcing and the international freight forwarder. Egyptian patients also frequently coordinate care across the diaspora, with a typical pattern being the patient and treating physician in Cairo or Alexandria, an adult child in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, the UK, or the US handling the USD wire and case correspondence, and the case requiring Arabic-language coordination on the patient side alongside English-language coordination on the family side. Reserve Meds supports both.

Regionally, Doptelet has variable registration status across the Gulf and the wider Middle East. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, and other GCC markets each operate their own named-patient pathways for unregistered medicines, and where the patient travels regionally for care, the receiving country's framework applies. Reserve Meds does not coordinate intra-regional patient travel; we coordinate US-to-Egypt sourcing.

Where Reserve Meds fits

Reserve Meds is a US-based concierge coordinator. We do not replace your treating physician, the EDA, your dispensing pharmacy, or your insurance carrier. For Doptelet specifically, our work is to align US-side sourcing, prepare the regulatory documentation kit your physician needs for the EDA filing, coordinate the international logistics to Cairo, and hold a single named coordinator through the case in both English and Arabic. Reserved for you.

Next step

If a treating physician in Egypt is weighing Doptelet for a patient, the waitlist is the first step. We respond within 24 to 48 hours with an eligibility confirmation and a documentation kit for the physician.

Reserved for you.

Related

- Doptelet clinical resource
- Egypt country page
- Named-patient pathway overview

Sources

1. FDA approval and prescribing information for Doptelet (avatrombopag), Sobi (Dova Pharmaceuticals).
2. Egyptian Drug Authority, personal-import framework under Law No. 151 of 2019, with executive regulations under Prime Minister Decision No. 777 of 2020.
3. Egypt Universal Health Insurance, Law No. 2 of 2018, and Universal Health Insurance Authority (UHIA) governorate phased rollout.
4. Manufacturer product monograph and US wholesale acquisition cost references for Doptelet dosing and pricing.

Review and oversight. Content on this page is reviewed by the Reserve Meds clinical and regulatory team. A US-licensed pharmacist reviews every prescription before dispensing. Regulatory posture is informational, not legal advice; case-specific questions route to

retained outside counsel. Review methodology ›

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