

PHARMACY

Drug Information

Axitinib Tablet



What is Axitinib?

- Axitinib is used to treat advanced renal cell carcinoma.

How is Axitinib Taken?

- Axitinib is taken orally twice daily, with or without food. The doses should be spaced 10–12 hours apart.
- If possible, handle the medication yourself. If a family member or caregiver needs to give the medication, wash hands before and after handling the medication.
- Swallow them whole with a glass of water. Do not chew or crush the medications. Inform your doctor or pharmacist if you have difficulty swallowing.
- If you miss a dose of Axitinib, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times. Do not take extra doses to make up for the missed dose. Inform your doctor immediately for advice.

Can Axitinib be Taken With Other Medications?

- Please inform your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking other medications, including Traditional Chinese Medicines, Jamu medicines or supplements.
- You should not drink or eat grapefruit/pomelo during your treatment with Axitinib.

What are the Important Side Effects of Axitinib?

- Medications prescribed by your doctor should be beneficial for your condition even though they may result in some inevitable side effects.

Side Effect	Management
Increased in blood pressure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood pressure will be monitored regularly each time you come to the clinic. If you have blood pressure monitoring machine at home, you can measure your own blood pressure every day and record it in a book. • Please remember to take the medications for high blood pressure if you have high blood pressure.

Side Effect	Management
Slow wound healing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wounds may take longer to heal while you are being treated with Axitinib. Inform your doctor if you have any surgery or procedures (including tooth extraction) planned as you may need to stop Axitinib 24 hours prior to surgery.
Hand-foot syndrome where palms of hands and soles of your feet may tingle, become red, numb, painful, or swollen. Skin may also become dry or itchy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform your doctor if blisters, severe pain or ulcers affects your normal daily activities. Avoid tight-fitting shoes or rubbing pressure to hands and feet if this occurs. Applying moisturizer to hands and feet liberally often may help. Applying sunscreen with an SPF (sun protection factor) of at least 30 may help.
Fatigue or tiredness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not drive or operate machinery if you are feeling tired. Inform your doctor if fatigue is persistent or worsens.
Increased chances of bleeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please proceed to the A & E department immediately if you cough up blood, have any unusual bruising, persistent nosebleeds or bleeding gums, unexpected vaginal bleeding, your vomit is bloody or looks like coffee grounds and/or you have black, tarry stools.
Severe headache, light headedness or other neurological symptoms (numbness, tingling, difficulty speaking, change in thinking clearly and with logic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please proceed to the A & E department immediately if you experience sudden onset of severe headache, eyesight changes, slurred speech and loss of coordination, weakness or numbness in arm or leg.

Side Effect	Management
Signs of a stroke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please proceed to the A & E department immediately if you experience sudden onset of severe headache, eyesight changes, slurred speech and loss of coordination, weakness or numbness in arm or leg.
Signs of a blood clot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please proceed to the A & E department immediately if you experience tenderness or hardness over a vein, calf swelling and tenderness, sudden onset of cough, chest pain, or shortness of breath.
Perforation in gastrointestinal tract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please proceed to the A & E department immediately if you experience abdominal pain, fever or chills.

If you develop rashes, facial swelling or shortness of breath after taking the medication, you could be allergic to the medication. Please seek medical attention immediately.

Are There any Special Precautions That I Need to Take?

- It is important to inform your doctor if you intend to conceive or breastfeed while taking this medication.
- You must not become pregnant during treatment with Axitinib and must use an effective method of contraception. You should take appropriate contraceptive measures during and up to 6 months after cessation of treatment. If pregnancy occurs during your treatment, you must inform your doctor immediately.
- Axitinib may have an anti-fertility effect, which could be irreversible. You should discuss with your doctor regarding fertility preservation prior to starting treatment.
- You should not breast-feed during treatment.

What Else Can I do to Help My Condition?

Exercise

- Light exercise is recommended as it helps to improve mobility, balance and even emotional well-being. Avoid strenuous exercise, and rest when you are feeling tired.

Stay positive

- Understand your condition and take an active role in managing it. Do not be afraid to talk about it with your doctor/ pharmacist/ family members. Repressed feelings can be harmful to your immediate well-being and long-term health.

Adequate hydration

- Maintain adequate hydration with 2 to 3 litres (8 to 12 cups) of fluids per day unless informed by your doctor to restrict fluids. This will decrease your chances of getting constipation and also prevent dehydration.

Medical and dental treatment

- If you need to go into hospital for any reason other than cancer, always inform the doctors and nurses that you are having chemotherapy.
- Talk to your cancer doctor if you think you need dental treatment. Always inform your dentist that you are having chemotherapy.

How do I Store Axitinib?

- Store your medication in a cool, dry place away from heat, moisture and direct sunlight.

If you have any problem with your treatment, please contact your doctor, pharmacist or nurse clinician.

Please keep all medications out of reach of children.

You can also find useful information with regards to your medication on this website:

<https://www.macmillan.org.uk/information-and-support>



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