

PHARMACY

Drug Information

Baricitinib



What is Baricitinib?

- Baricitinib is a drug that helps to slow down the progression of your Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA). It targets certain proteins in your body to reduce inflammation. This helps to improve your symptoms of joint pain and swelling.
- If you have moderate to severe RA, this drug is used when other common disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) for treatment of RA are not effective.

How can I Take Baricitinib?

- You can take Baricitinib tablets orally, with or without food.
- Your suitability and dosage of Baricitinib depends on:
 - Your disease condition
 - If you have existing liver or kidney disease
 - Your list of concurrent medications
- Do take Baricitinib regularly to experience the full benefits of the drug. Baricitinib does not work immediately and it may take weeks to months before you notice any benefit.
- If you miss a dose, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, only take your usual dose. Never take a double dosage of medication to make up for your missed dose.

Can I Take Baricitinib With My Other Medications?

- You can take Baricitinib with other medications such as corticosteroids, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and some disease modifying drugs such as Methotrexate.
- Please inform your doctor, pharmacist or rheumatology nurse clinician if you are taking other medications as they may interact with Baricitinib. These include:
 - Over-the-counter medicines
 - Nutritional supplements
 - Traditional or herbal remedies

- Discuss with your doctor before you receive any vaccines. Pneumococcal and Influenza vaccinations are safe and may be given if required. Avoid live vaccines such as:
 - Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR)
 - Oral polio vaccine (OPV)
 - Chickenpox (Varicella)
 - Yellow fever or
 - Tuberculosis (BCG)

What Are Some Side Effects of Baricitinib I May Experience?

- You may experience some side effects of Baricitinib only after years of taking this medication. Talk to your doctor immediately if you experience any of these side effects:

Side Effects	Management
Common side effects: Diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting	Some of these may improve as you get used to your medication. You may take the medication after food to help reduce your nausea. Talk to your doctor if symptoms persist or if they are bothersome.
Infection (Warning signs: fever more than 38°C, chills, cough, painful urination, blood in urine, tiredness)	Seek medical attention immediately if you feel unwell. You should inform your attending doctor immediately that you are taking Baricitinib. You may need to stop your medication while you are having an infection.
Higher cholesterol levels	Your doctor will do blood tests to monitor your cholesterol level. You may be prescribed new medication or have adjustments made to your existing medications to control your cholesterol levels.

Side Effects	Management
Blood disorders (e.g. low red blood cell counts, low white blood cell counts)	You might not experience any symptoms from these side effects. It is important that you attend routine reviews with your doctor as he/she will order regular blood tests for monitoring.
Rare side effect: Liver disorder (Warning signs: Yellowing of eye whites or skin, dark or tea-coloured urine or constant abdominal pain)	Consult your doctor immediately if you experience any of these warning signs. Your doctor will do blood tests to check if this occurs.
Rare side effect: Bowel problems	Consult your doctor immediately if you experience persistent abdominal pain. Inform your doctor if you have a history of diverticulitis (inflamed pouches along the lining of your intestine).
Rare side effect: Blood clots or thrombosis	Usually forms in your legs, lungs or heart. Seek medical attention immediately if you develop a sudden onset of leg swelling, breathlessness, severe chest pain, weakness or numbness.

- 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.

What Are Some Safety Precautions That I Need to Take?

- Baricitinib may reduce your body's ability to fight against infection. Avoid crowded places and direct contact with any sick person while on Baricitinib.
- Avoid consumption of raw or undercooked food.
- If you are a woman of childbearing age, you should use reliable contraceptive measures while on Baricitinib and for at least one week after stopping your treatment.
- Inform your doctor if you intend to conceive while on this medication as it may affect your pregnancy.
- Breastfeeding is not recommended while receiving treatment with Baricitinib.

How do I Store Baricitinib?

- 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 rheumatology nurse clinician immediately.

Please keep all medications out of reach of children.



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