

PHARMACY

Drug Information

Crizotinib Capsule



What is Crizotinib?

- Crizotinib is usually used to treat anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK)-positive advanced non-small cell lung cancer.

How is Crizotinib Administered / Taken?

- Crizotinib is taken orally twice daily, approximately 12 hours apart, with or without food. Sometimes, dose may be reduced to once daily if you experienced side effects or have pre-existing kidney problems. Swallow them whole with a glass of water within half an hour after a meal. Do not chew or crush the medications. Inform your doctor or pharmacist if you have difficulty swallowing.
- 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.
- If you miss a dose of Crizotinib, take it as soon as possible if it is within 6 hours of the missed dose. If it is more than 6 hours since your missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times.
- If you vomit the dose of Crizotinib, 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 Crizotinib be Administered / 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 grapefruit juice or eat grapefruit during your treatment with Crizotinib. It may increase the amount of Crizotinib in your blood to a harmful level.

What are the Important Side Effects of Crizotinib?

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

Side Effect	Management
Risk of infection may be increased as Crizotinib can reduce the number of white blood cells in your blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce risk of infection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wash your hands after using toilet - Avoid crowds and people who are sick - Do not share food and avoid taking raw food • Please proceed to the A & E department immediately if you experience signs of an infection such as fever with a temperature above 38°C, chills, and burning sensation when passing urine. Do not take Paracetamol (Panadol®) to relieve fever unless instructed by your doctor/ nurse.
Bruising or bleeding may occur as Crizotinib can reduce the number of platelets in your blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce risk of bleeding problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Try not to bruise, cut or burn yourself - Clean your nose by blowing gently; Do not pick your nose - Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush as your gums may bleed more easily - Be aware that bleeding may take a longer time to stop • Please proceed to the A & E department immediately if you experience signs of bleeding such as blood in urine or stools, or easy bruising.
Nausea or vomiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small frequent meals or sucking hard, sugar-free candy may help. • Please remember to take the medications for nausea or vomiting as instructed by your doctor if any.

Side Effect	Management
Diarrhoea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your doctor may prescribe medications to control diarrhoea. Inform your doctor if it is severe and/or does not improve with medication use. • Make sure you drink at least two litres (8 cups) of fluids every day when you are having diarrhoea. • Avoid milk or dairy products and/or high fibre food whilst you are having diarrhoea.
Eye problems, such as blurry or double vision, or flashes of light commonly occur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid driving or operating machinery. Inform your doctor if it gets worse.
Numbness and tingling sensation in the hands or feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform your doctor if you have trouble buttoning up shirts or you are unable to pick up objects.
Changes in the way the liver works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please proceed to the A & E department immediately if you experience any yellowing of eye white and skin or tea-coloured urine, pale stools or severe abdominal pain.
Slow or abnormal heart rhythm (QT prolongation) rarely occurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please proceed to the A & E department immediately if your heart is beating irregularly or fast, or if you feel faint, lightheaded, or dizzy.

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 Crizotinib and must use an effective method of contraception. You should take appropriate contraceptive measures during and up to 3 months after cessation of treatment. If pregnancy occurs during your treatment, you must inform your doctor immediately.
- Crizotinib 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 feel 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 Crizotinib Capsules?

- 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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