

PHARMACY

Drug Information

Pazopanib (Votrient®) Tablet



What is Pazopanib?

- Pazopanib is usually used to treat renal cancer and soft tissue sarcoma.

How is Pazopanib Administered / Taken?

- Pazopanib is taken orally once daily on an empty stomach, an hour before or two hours after food. Take Pazopanib at the same time in relation to food each day. Swallow them whole with a glass of water, do not chew or crush the medicines. 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 or vomit the dose of Pazopanib, 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 Pazopanib be Administered / Taken With Other Medications?

- Antacids should be separated from Pazopanib by at least 2 hours. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other drugs to reduce stomach acid such as Omeprazole (Losec®) or Ranitidine (Zantac®).
- You should not drink grapefruit juice or eat grapefruit during your treatment with Pazopanib. It may increase the amount of Pazopanib in your blood to a harmful level.
- Please inform your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking other medications, including supplements, traditional or herbal remedies.

What are the Important Side Effects of Pazopanib?

- 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 Pazopanib 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 the 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 Pazopanib 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.

Side Effect	Management
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 medicines for nausea or vomiting as instructed by your doctor if any.
Diarrhoea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your doctor may prescribe medicines to control diarrhoea. Inform your doctor if it is severe and/or does not improve with medicine 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.
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.
Increase in blood pressure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood pressure will be monitored regularly when you come to the clinic. If you have a blood pressure monitoring machine at home, you can measure your blood pressure every day and record it in a book. • Please remember to take your medicines for high blood pressure if you are taking them.

Side Effect	Management
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. • Apply moisturizer to hands and feet liberally often may help. • Apply sunscreen with an SPF (sun protection factor) of at least 30 may help.
Hair changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may notice that your head and body hair is finer, curlier or more brittle. Pazopanib may also cause changes to the colour of your hair. This usually develops gradually. All of these changes are usually temporary and will improve once treatment is stopped. However, for some the changes in hair colour may be permanent.
Slow wound healing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wounds may take longer to heal while you are being treated with Pazopanib. If you have any surgery planned you should stop taking Pazopanib for 7 days before the operation and not start taking it again until four weeks afterwards, as long as the wound is fully healed.

Side Effect	Management
Effects on thyroid glands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pazopanib can sometimes affect the thyroid gland, making it less active. • Your doctor will check how your thyroid is working with regular blood tests. If this happens, it can be easily treated with medication and goes back to normal after the treatment is finished.
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, loss of coordination, weakness or numbness in arm or leg.
Signs of a blood clot in veins	<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.
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.
Changes in the way the heart works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please proceed to the A & E department immediately if you experience sudden swelling of hands or feet, shortness of breath and/or chest pain.

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 Pazopanib 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.
- Pazopanib 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 liters (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 Pazopanib?

- 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>

