

PHARMACY

Drug Information

Sorafenib Tablet



What Is Sorafenib?

- Sorafenib is used to treat kidney, liver and thyroid cancer.

How Is Sorafenib Administered / Taken?

- Sorafenib is usually taken orally twice a day on empty stomach the same time each day, 1 hour before or 2 hours after food.
- The tablet should be swallowed whole. Do not chew or crush the capsules. Inform your doctor or pharmacist if you have difficulty swallowing.
- If possible, handle the medication yourself. Otherwise family member or caregiver can help to handle the medications. Wash hands before and after handling the medication.
- If you miss or vomit a dose of Sorafenib, skip the missed dose and take it at the next scheduled timing.

Can Sorafenib 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.

What are the Important Side Effects of Sorafenib?

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

Side Effect	Management
Bruising or bleeding can occur as Sorafenib 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"> - Do not pick your nose. - Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush. - Be aware that bleeding may take a longer time to stop. • Please proceed to the A&E department immediately if you experience any severe or persistent bleeding (eg, passing a large

Side Effect	Management
	amount of fresh blood in urine or stools, or passing black sticky stools) or significant bruising.
Nausea or vomiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take small, frequent meals. • Avoid smells that precipitate nausea. • Take medicines for nausea or vomiting prescribed by your doctor. • Avoid tight-fitting clothes around the waist.
Diarrhoea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform your doctor if this is severe and/or does not improve with medicine use. • Drink at least two litres (eight cups) of fluids every day when you are having diarrhoea. • Avoid milk, dairy products, high fibre food or spicy food while you are having diarrhoea.
Mouth ulcers can occur on the tongue, the sides of the mouth or in the throat and this can lead to an infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brush your teeth gently after eating and at bedtime with a soft toothbrush. • Rinse and brush your dentures after eating and soak them in denture solution overnight. • Rinsing your mouth regularly with an alcohol-free mouth gargle or salt water may help reduce chances of infection.
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.

Side Effect	Management
Hair loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear a wig or hat or use a gentle shampoo
Slow wound healing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wounds may take longer to heal while you are being treated with Sorafenib. • If you have any surgery planned, let your doctors know. They will instruct you on the duration to stop Sorafenib before surgery and when to resume after surgery.
Heart problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please proceed to the A&E department immediately if you experience shortness of breath, chest pain or sudden swelling of legs.
Increased 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 prescribed medicines for high blood pressure.
Effects on thyroid glands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sorafenib can sometimes affect the thyroid gland, making it less or more active. • Your doctor will check how your thyroid is working with regular blood tests. If this happens, it can easily be treated with medication.
Risk of infection can occur as Sorafenib 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 toileting. - Avoid crowds and people who are sick. - Avoid raw food. • Please proceed to the A&E department immediately if you experience signs of infection such as fever with a temperature of 38°C and above, chills and shivering. Avoid

Side Effect	Management
	taking Paracetamol (Panadol®) to relieve fever. Be aware that taking Paracetamol may mask fever and hence delay treatment of infection.
Lung problems (Pneumonitis, inflammation of the lung)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please proceed to the A&E department immediately if you experience difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, chest pain and/or new or worsening cough.
Changes in the way the liver works (Hepatitis, inflammation of the liver)	<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.
Signs of 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.
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 an arm or leg.

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?

- You must not become pregnant during treatment with Sorafenib and must use an effective method of contraception. You should take appropriate contraceptive measures during and up to 6 months after stopping treatment. If pregnancy occurs during your treatment, you must inform your doctor immediately.

- Sorafenib 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 two to three 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 receiving anti-cancer treatment.

Talk to your cancer doctor if you think you need dental treatment. Always inform your dentist that you are receiving anti-cancer treatment.

How Do I Store Sorafenib?

- 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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PECC-PHA-ED-2023-1602-v1