

Ruxolitinib

Jakavi®

Cancer-directed targeted therapy in tablets

Understanding your treatment

What is targeted therapy?

This treatment targets specific molecules, which are inside or on the surface of cancer cells. By targeting cancer cells, the targeted therapy limits damage to healthy cells. This type of treatment can be used alone or in combination with other treatments such as chemotherapy.

How can a targeted therapy help you?

Depending on your type of cancer and the stage of the disease, a targeted therapy can be used to :

- **Destroy** cancer cells
- **Stop** the cancer from spreading
- **Slow** the growth of cancer cells

How will you feel while on a targeted therapy?

Even though those treatments target cancer cells and limit damage to healthy cells, side effects can still arise.

Not everyone has side effects and each person's experience may differ. Side effects and their severity are not representative of the treatment's effect or lack thereof.

This document presents the most frequent side effects that your targeted therapy causes.

Medication

Ruxolitinib

Tablets to take by mouth

Administration

To be taken twice daily (approximately every 12 hours)

Take with or without food

On a continuous basis : It is important not to stop taking your medication without first speaking to your healthcare team



A **blood test** will be done regularly during your treatment. Depending on the results and side effects, the dose of the medication might be adjusted.

How to take your medication?

- Take your ruxolitinib tablets as prescribed twice daily at the same time every day. You may take your pills before or during your meal with a large glass of water or juice. If you have difficulty tolerating it, for example, if it causes a stomach ache, take it while you eat.
- Tablets must be taken whole. Do not chew, split or crush the tablets.
- **If you forget a dose**, skip this dose and take next dose on schedule. Do not double your next dose. Try, however, to take your pills at the same time every day and in the same way (either with or without food).

Storing and handling your medicines



- Wash your hands immediately after handling your tablets.
- Keep your medication at room temperature, out of the reach of children and pets as well as protected from light, heat or moisture. Do not keep medicines in the bathroom.
- Don't throw away unused medication at home. Bring it back to your pharmacy to be destroyed safely. You may dispose of the empty containers in your home garbage can.
- If the pills inadvertently come in contact with the surrounding surface, wash and rub the surface with water and soap.
- Caregivers should wear disposable gloves if they prepare medication for you. You can find disposable gloves at your local community pharmacy.
- Keep your medications in their original container and do not mix them with other drugs.

How can this treatment affect your daily life?

Fatigue and appetite



- You may experience **fatigue** during your treatments. This is usually temporary and may be related to different reasons (medication, stress, the disease). Maintain a good level of activity but rest when you feel the need to.
- Your **appetite may diminish**. Eat more often, in smaller quantities.
- Your **sense of taste may be altered**. Enhance foods with *fines herbes* or lemon juice. Eating fruits and unsweetened candies, chewing non-sugared gums, etc., may mask the metallic taste.
- **Alcohol** in small quantities is allowed and will not affect the efficacy of the treatments.



Sex life and birth control



- You can have an **active sexual** life during your treatments. However, a decrease in your sexual drive may occur during this period. This may also be influenced by different factors (fatigue, stress, etc.).
- It's safe to kiss, to touch, to hold hands, to sleep in the same bed and to cuddle.
- The effect of the drug on male or female fertility is unknown. This medication may have an effect on the menstrual cycle as well as spermatozoid production. However, this does not prevent erection or sexual activity and as such, you can have an active sexual life during your treatments. Pregnancy is possible and this medication could be harmful to the fetus. The use of an effective method of contraception is highly recommended for both men and women while on treatment. Breast-feeding is contraindicated during treatment.

Foods and medicines to avoid



- **Grapefruit**
You must avoid consuming grapefruit, Seville orange, starfruit, pomelo, pomegranate or foods containing them. The consumption of those foods could increase the side effects of ruxolitinib.

Tips and precautions



- **Sit down to urinate and fold down the toilet lid**
Women as well as men should sit down to urinate and fold down the toilet lid before flushing in order to avoid splashing. Flush twice to make sure everything has been flushed away. Follow these precautions during your treatments (or according to instructions from your cancer center).

- **Bodily fluids.**

During the treatment period, your medicine may be found in certain liquids or secretions that you produce such as urine, stools, vomit, sperm and vaginal discharge. In order to protect the environment and those living with you, follow the instructions given by your cancer center about the right way to handle and dispose of the bodily fluids.



- **Over the counter medicines, natural health products and vaccines**

Consult your healthcare team :

- if you intend to take any other medication (with or without a prescription) or natural health products.
- if you need to receive a vaccine.

This could decrease your treatment's efficacy or increase its side effects.

- **Always have on hand the complete list of your medications**

Be sure to always have on hand the complete list of your medications, dietary supplements, vitamins and other natural health products. Give it to you doctor and your pharmacist. It is important to make them aware of any change.

What are the side effects of your treatment?

This fact sheet aims to let you know the side effects most commonly seen following the administration of your treatment. Please note that when you take any medication, there is a possibility that it causes rare side effects and it is difficult to predict which patients will be affected.

ADVERSE EFFECTS

MANAGEMENT

Decrease in red blood cells

You may experience a decrease in red blood cells following your treatment. This is called anemia and is characterized by signs of fatigue, pale color, dizziness and shortness of breath.

- Keep active but respect signs of fatigue your body gives you; rest when you feel the need to.
- If you notice one or any of these effects, contact a member of your healthcare team.

Decrease in platelets

A decrease in platelets may occur during treatment. You may bruise or bleed more easily than you normally do.

- Use a tooth brush with soft bristles.
- Consult your pharmacist before taking over the counter medications containing Aspirin® or other anti-inflammatory medication (e.g. Advil®, Motrin®, Aleve®, etc.).
- Contact a member of your healthcare team if you bruise more easily than you normally do or if you have a tendency to bleed easily from the nose or the gums.

Bleeding

Bleeding such as nose bleeds may occur.

If bleeding occurs:

- Sit down straight with you head slightly bent forward.
- Apply a continuous pressure on your nostrils for a few minutes then check if the bleeding has stopped.
- Avoid blowing your nose for 12 hours after the bleeding episode.
- **Stop your treatment and call your healthcare team or go to the Emergency Room if:** you have prolonged bleeding (more than 20 minutes), or if it's not possible to stop it, or if you have blood in your stools or urine or if you cough up blood.

Decrease in white blood cells

A decrease in the **white blood cells** might occur during your treatment. You could be at higher risk of infections during this period.

- Wash your hands often.
- Avoid coming in contact with people who have contagious diseases.
- Contact a member of your healthcare team quickly if you notice any signs of infection (chills, cough, sore throat, pain while you urinate, etc.).
- In case of fever, do not take acetaminophen (Ex: Tylenol®, Atasol®) and anti-inflammatory medication (Ex: Motrin®, Advil®, Aleve®).

⊖ Stop your treatment and go to the Emergency Room if:

- you have a fever of 38,3 °C (101°F) or above
or
- you have a fever of 38 °C (100,4 °F) twice an hour apart.

Nausea

Usually, there is no nausea with this treatment.

Hair loss

Usually there is **no hair loss** with this treatment.

RARE ADVERSE EFFECTS THAT CAN BE SEVERE OR SERIOUS

If the following side effects occur, stop your treatment and call your healthcare team as quickly as possible or go to the Emergency Room:

- Confusion, difficulty to walk or to talk, weakness on one side of your body, loss of vision
- Unusually slow heartbeat, chest pain, fainting

PHARMACIST: _____

PHONE: _____

FROM ____ H ____ TO ____ H ____ (MONDAY TO FRIDAY)

This fact sheet has been prepared by a sub-committee of the Comité national de l'évolution de la pratique des soins pharmaceutiques of the Programme québécois de cancérologie of the Ministry of Health and Social Services in consultation with the Comité de l'évolution de la pratique en oncologie of the Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux.

DEVELOPED NOVEMBER 2019



Treatment Diary | Ruxolitinib 28 days

CYCLE START DATE :

LEGEND

⊘ Stop your treatment and contact your healthcare team without delay or go to the Emergency Room.

Refer to the information sheet for more details.

		TREATMENT																											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
(Record the dose taken)	mg																												
	mg																												
Date (dd-mm)																													
DECREASE IN WHITE BLOOD CELLS		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
⊘	You have a fever of 38,3°C (101°F) or above or you have a fever of 38°C (100,4°F) twice an hour apart with or without symptoms of infection.																												
BLEEDING		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
⊘	Prolonged bleeding (more than 20 minutes), or if it's not possible to stop it, or blood in the stools or urine or if you cough up blood.																												