Kabozantinib tabletter

About your treatment

How to take the medicines

Swallow the tablets whole with water. Wait at least 2 hours after a meal before taking the tablets, and do not eat anything for at least 1 hour after taking them. If you miss a dose, take it only if there are at least 12 hours remaining until the next scheduled dose. Do not eat or drink grapefruit or grapefruit juice, and do not take products containing St. John's wort, as these can affect the effect of cabozantinib. See also the information in the package leaflet.

Side effects - symptoms and tips

The side effects we list here are the most common and important. They can vary greatly from person to person, and even from time to time. Side effects may determine your dose or require you to stop taking the medicine.

Tell your doctor or nurse if you have any side effects. Often the symptoms can be prevented or alleviated.

Fatigue

Fatigue is common in connection with cancer and its treatment. The severity of the symptoms and their duration vary from person to person. You may continue to feel tired long after treatment has ended. This type of extreme exhaustion is known as fatigue—a tiredness that does not always improve with rest or sleep. Many describe fatigue as a total lack of energy, and it can occur even without physical exertion. Your ability to remember, concentrate, and solve problems may be impaired. Fatigue is sometimes associated with feelings of resignation, stress, anxiety, and depression. Tip: Try to stay active. Physical activity often helps alleviate tiredness and fatigue. Find a balance between activity, rest, and sleep that works for you.

Nausea and taste changes

There is a risk that the treatment will make you feel unwell. If necessary, you will be given anti-nausea medication.

Tips: Sometimes it feels better to eat lighter food and small portions. For example, try skim milk, yoghurt, omelettes, sandwiches and hot or cold soups. Drinking a little extra between meals can reduce nausea.

Problems with stomach and intestines

Diarrhoea is common. You may also become constipated.

Tip: Drink a lot, a few glasses more than usual per day. If you have diarrhoea, avoid fatty, spicy and high-fibre foods. If you're constipated, try high-fibre foods and exercise. Talk to your doctor if you get diarrhoea or constipation - you may need medication.

Hypertension

High blood pressure is common. Your blood pressure will be monitored during treatment, and you may need medication.

Infection susceptibility

You will be susceptible to infection after treatment. This is because the level of white blood cells drops. Before each treatment, blood samples are taken to see if the blood cells have recovered. If the values are too low, the treatment must be postponed.

Tips: Try to avoid close contact with people who have a cold or stomach illness, for example. Wash your hands often with soap and water. Hand sanitizer can be useful.

Problems with mucous membranes in the mouth

The mucous membranes of the mouth may be affected by your treatment. You may experience swelling and sores in your mouth and around your lips.

Tip: Be attentive to oral hygiene, and use a soft toothbrush and mild toothpaste. Be careful with floss and toothpicks. Inform your dentist of your cancer treatment when you visit.

Numbness and tingling - sensory disturbances

You may experience numbness and tingling in your hands and feet, and your fine motor skills may become worse. For example, you may have difficulty buttoning buttons or walking. The symptoms usually go away, but not completely in everyone. Tell your doctor or nurse if you have numbness or tingling in your hands and feet. Physical activity can prevent neuropathy and can relieve symptoms and improve motor skills and balance. Try to find the exercise that suits you. Cardio and strength training can be good for preventive purposes. If neuropathy has occurred, improved muscle strength, balance training and yoga can also have an effect by affecting function for the better.

Problems with skin, hair and nails

Skin often becomes dry and more sensitive to the sun. You may also lose hair or your hair may change texture. Nails can become brittle.

Tip: When washing your skin, be gentle and use mild soap. Lubricate often with moisturiser. Wear covering clothing to protect against the sun, and sunscreen on parts of your body that you can't cover. Wear gloves for work that is dirty or abrasive for your hands. If your nails are bothering you, you can use nail polish and brush your cuticles with oil or apply a moisturiser.

Problems with hands and feet

You may sometimes experience redness, dry flaky skin and swelling on the soles of your hands and feet. It usually starts as soreness, tingling and numbness, which can develop into blisters, cracks and sores. Contact your doctor immediately if you experience these symptoms.

Tip: Avoid exposing hands and feet to high heat, such as showering or washing dishes with very hot water. To relieve the discomfort, you can use cold items, such as a freezing pack wrapped in a towel. Also avoid exposing your hands and feet to vibration or abrasion, such as when using a drill for hours or running for miles.

Bleeding

You may have an increased risk of bleeding. For example, you may bleed easily from your nose or mouth. If you get a cut on your skin, you may bleed longer than usual. Surgical wounds may heal more slowly.

Tips: Be careful not to cut yourself. You can stop nosebleeds by squeezing the soft parts of your nose for 10 minutes. If this doesn't stop it, contact your doctor. Be attentive to oral hygiene, and use a soft toothbrush and mild toothpaste. Be careful with floss and toothpicks. Inform your dentist or other health care provider of your cancer treatment when you visit.

Contact your clinic immediately at:

Acute

Call 112 in case of persistent acute chest pain, pressure on the chest or difficulty breathing/shortness of breath

Call your clinic immediately at:

Sudden deterioration regardless of symptoms

Severe diarrhea that does not decrease with stopping drugs

New skin rashes over large parts of the body

Painful skin redness/rash/nail changes

Common advice

It is important not to get pregnant or make someone pregnant while you are being treated with cancer drugs, as the drugs can affect the foetus. Therefore, use safe contraceptives. Sometimes double protection is needed, as side effects such as diarrhoea or the direct effect of cancer drugs may mean that the contraceptive pill is not enough protection on its own.

General information about cancer

Useful information about cancer is available from both 1177 Vårdguiden and Cancerfonden:

www.1177.se

www.cancerfonden.se