

## Axitinib

for Urological cancer

### Regimen schedule

Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
Axitinib Morning dose	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Axitinib Evening dose	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

### Next course of treatment, day 29

Day	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Axitinib Morning dose	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Axitinib Evening dose	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

## About your treatment

Axitinib blocks proteins that regulate the growth and division of cancer cells, slowing them down.

Axitinib (Inlyta) is taken as tablets twice a day continuously.

During treatment, your blood tests and any side effects will be monitored.

## How to take the medicines

Swallow the tablets whole with water, with or without food, at about the same time each day. If you miss a dose or vomit, take your usual dose at the next opportunity. You must not eat or drink grapefruit as this may increase side effects. St. John's wort should also be avoided as it affects the effect of the medicine.

Read more 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.

### 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.

## Skin and nails

Skin often becomes dry and more sensitive to the sun. Nails can become brittle.

**Tips:** When washing your skin, be gentle and use mild soap. Lubricate 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.

## Headache

Headaches are common.

## 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.

## Pain in muscles and joints

Pain in muscles and joints is common.

## Contact your clinic immediately at:

- fever over 38 degrees or if your temperature drops below 36 degrees
- severe diarrhoea, or diarrhoea combined with fever
- sudden deterioration, regardless of symptoms
- chest pain or difficulty breathing, call 112

## 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](http://www.1177.se)

[www.cancerfonden.se](http://www.cancerfonden.se)

## Notes

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