How drug is given: By mouth

Purpose: to stop the growth of cancer cells in the kidney and other cancers.

How to take this drug

1. Take this medication with or without food.

2. Swallow each tablet whole; do not crush or chew them. If you are unable to swallow the tablet, the pharmacist will give you specific instructions.

3. Axitinib can interfere with many drugs, which may change how this works in your body. Talk with your doctor before starting any new drugs, including over-the-counter drugs, natural products, herbals or vitamins.

4. If you miss a dose, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular dosing schedule. Do not double dose.

5. Do not drink grapefruit juice or eat grapefruit. Also, do not take St. John’s wort. Consuming these may increase the amount of medication in your body and worsen side effects.

6. Wash hands after taking the medication. Avoid handling crushed or broken tablets.

Storage

• Store this medicine at room temperature, away from heat. Keep this medicine in its original container, out of the reach of children and pets.

Things that may occur during treatment

1. Mild to moderate nausea, vomiting, and loss of appetite may occur. Drugs to help with this may be given to you.

2. Loose stools or diarrhea may occur during or within a few days after the drug is given. You may take loperamide (Imodium A-D®) to help control diarrhea. You may buy this at most drug stores. It is also important to drink more fluids (water, juice, sports drinks). If these do not help, tell your doctor or nurse.
3. Mild constipation may occur after treatment begins. Please increase your fluid intake and increase fiber in your diet by eating fresh fruits and vegetables. A daily stool softener, such as docusate (Colace®) and/or laxatives such as senna (Senakot®), may be helpful. If these do not help within 48 hours, tell your doctor or nurse. Avoid bulk forming laxatives such as Metamucil® without talking with your doctor or nurse.

4. Your blood pressure may go up. If this happens, you may be given medication to help with this. If you have headaches or dizziness, let your doctor or nurse know right away.

5. The palms of your hands or the soles of your feet may become red and painful. This is called hand-foot syndrome. Tingling and peeling of the skin may occur. Avoid tight fitting shoes. Use thick (moisturizing) creams on hands and feet.

6. Skin changes such as dryness or a rash on your body may occur. Ask your doctor or nurse what lotions or creams you may use.

7. Some patients may feel very tired, also known as fatigue. You may need to rest or take naps more often. Mild to moderate exercise can also be helpful in maintaining your energy. You may also be less interested in doing your usual activities. Talk with your doctor or nurse.

8. Loss of appetite may occur; this may lead to weight loss. Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have questions or concerns.

9. You may feel pain or weakness in your joints or muscles. If these bother you, ask your doctor or nurse what type of drugs you may use to help with this pain.

10. You may lose your voice or experience difficulty speaking.

11. You are at an increased risk of blood clots. If you have pain, swelling or and/or warmth in one leg, let your doctor or nurse know right away.

Things that may occur after treatment ends (even months to years later)

Fertility and Related Precautions:
- It is very important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug could be harmful to an unborn baby.
- Women should not breast-feed while receiving this drug.
- If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your doctor or nurse.

The above information includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects in this teaching sheet may not be the same ones you experience. Your side effects may be different, depending on how often you receive treatment (your schedule) and how much you receive each time (your dosage). Side effects may also vary if you take other medications. Please talk with your doctor or nurse if you have questions about possible side effects you may experience. This document should not take the place of conversations with members of your health care team.
If you experience any significant change in your health during or after treatment, contact a member of your health care team right away.

Managing your oral chemotherapy schedule at home can be challenging. To help you with this, consider using tools to help you keep track of your schedule and any side effects you may have. You can find these tools online at www.dana-farber.org/OralChemoDiary.