How the drug is given: by mouth

Purpose: to stop the growth of cancer cells in kidney cancer, gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST), pancreatic cancer, and other cancers

How to take the drug by mouth

- Take this drug with or without food.
- Take with food if it causes an upset stomach.
- Swallow each tablet whole; do not crush or chew. If you are unable to swallow the tablet, the pharmacist will give you specific instructions.
- 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.**
- Sunitinib 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, herbal supplements (such as St. John’s wort), or vitamins.

- **Do not drink grapefruit juice or eat grapefruit.** Side effects may be worse.

Storage

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

Things that may occur during treatment

1. Loose stools or diarrhea may occur within 3 days after the drug is given. You can take loperamide (Imodium A-D®) to help control diarrhea. You can 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.

2. Mild constipation may occur within 1 to 2 weeks 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®) or Miralax® may be helpful. If these do not help within 48
hours, tell your doctor or nurse. Do not use bulk forming laxatives, such as Metamucil®, without talking to your doctor or nurse.

3. Headache may occur after treatment begins. Please talk to your doctor or nurse about what you can take for this.

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

5. Skin changes such as dryness, color changes (yellow), or a rash on your body or arms and legs may occur. Ask your doctor or nurse what lotions or creams you may use.

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

7. You may have a change in taste.

8. Your blood cell counts may drop. This is known as bone marrow suppression. This includes a decrease in your:
   - Red blood cells, which carry oxygen in your body to help give you energy
   - White blood cells, which fight infection in your body
   - Platelets, which help clot the blood to stop bleeding

   If you have a fever of 100.5°F (39°C) or higher, chills, a cough, or any bleeding problems, call your doctor or nurse right away.

9. You may get some hair thinning and/or changes in hair color (gray).

10. Some patients may feel very tired, also known as fatigue. You may need to rest or take naps more often. Mild to moderate exercise may also help you maintain your energy. Talk with your doctor or nurse.

   In some cases, fatigue may be a sign of hypothyroidism. This is a condition in which your thyroid gland does not produce enough thyroid hormone. If you experience this, and have other symptoms such as cold intolerance or modest weight gain, talk to your doctor or nurse.

11. You may get mouth pain. You may have a burning feeling and redness inside the mouth or on the lips. Mouth rinses may be ordered by your doctor. Check with your doctor before having any dental work done.

12. 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 sunitinib. 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.

THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS OR NOTES FOR THE PATIENT AND FAMILY: