

Axitinib (Inlyta)

About This Medicine

AXITINIB (AX i TI nib) treats kidney cancer. It works by blocking a protein that causes cancer cells to grow and multiply. This helps to slow or stop the spread of cancer cells. It is given by mouth (orally).

This medicine may be used for other purposes; ask your care team if you have questions.

Possible Side Effects

- Nausea and vomiting (throwing up)
- Diarrhea (loose bowel movements)
- Constipation (not able to move bowels)
- Tiredness and weakness
- Weight loss
- Decreased appetite (decreased hunger)
- Voice changes/hoarseness
- Hand-foot syndrome. The palms of your hands or soles of your feet may tingle, become numb, painful, swollen, or red.
- High blood pressure

Note: Each of the side effects above was reported in 20% or greater of people treated with axitinib. All possible side effects are not included. Your side effects may be different depending on your cancer diagnosis, condition, or if you are receiving other medicines in combination. Please discuss any concerns or questions with your care team.

Warnings and Precautions

- Severe high blood pressure
- Congestive heart failure, which can be life threatening – your heart is not pumping blood as well as it should be, and fluid can build up in your body. Other severe and life-threatening heart conditions can happen when axitinib is given in combination with other therapies to treat cancer.
- Increased protein in your urine, which can affect how your kidneys work.
- Blood clots and events such as stroke and heart attack, which can be life-threatening. A blood clot in your leg may cause your leg to swell, appear red and warm, and/or cause pain. A blood clot in your lungs may cause trouble breathing, pain when breathing, and/or chest pain.

- Abnormal bleeding which can be life-threatening – symptoms may be coughing up blood, throwing up blood (may look like coffee grounds), red or black tarry bowel movements, abnormally heavy menstrual flow, nosebleeds, or any other unusual bleeding.
- Perforation or fistula - an abnormal hole in your stomach, intestine, esophagus, or other organ, which can be life-threatening.
- Changes in your thyroid function
- Swelling in the brain that is usually reversible. Symptoms can be sudden (acute) and may include a headache, confusion, changes in eyesight, extreme tiredness/coma, and/or seizures. **If you start to have any of these symptoms let your care team know right away.**
- Changes in your liver function
- Slow wound healing

Note: Some of the side effects above are very rare. If you have concerns and/or questions, please discuss them with your care team.

Important Information

- Axitinib may cause slow wound healing. It should not be given within at least 2 days of planned surgery and for at least 2 weeks and until adequate wound healing after major surgery. If you must have emergency surgery or have an accident that results in a wound, tell your care team that you are on axitinib.

How to Take Your Medicine

- Swallow the medicine whole with a full glass of water, approximately 12 hours apart.
- You can take the medicine with or without food.
- **Missed dose:** If you vomit or miss a dose, take your next dose at the regular time. Do not take 2 doses at the same time and do not double up on the next dose.
- **Overdosage:** If you think you have taken too much of this medicine contact a poison control center or emergency room at once.
- **Handling:** Wash your hands with soap and water, before and after handling your medicine. Your caretakers should not handle your medicine with bare hands and should wear latex gloves.
- This medicine may be present in the urine, stool and other body fluids such as blood, vomit, semen, and vaginal fluids. Take precautions to prevent others from coming in contact with your medicine or your body fluids. Follow safety precautions during your treatment and for as long as directed by your care team after your treatment. If you take a pill each day, follow these precautions every day.
- **Storage:** Store this medicine in the original container at room temperature. Keep out of the reach of children and pets.
- **Disposal of unused medicine:** Do not flush any expired and/or unused medicine down the toilet or drain unless you are specifically instructed to do so on the medicine label. Some facilities have take-back programs and/or other options. If you do not have a take-back program in your area, then please discuss with your care team how to dispose of unused medicine.



Treating Side Effects

- Manage tiredness by pacing your activities for the day.
- Be sure to include periods of rest between energy-draining activities.
- Drink enough fluids to keep your urine pale yellow.
- If you throw up or have diarrhea, you should drink more fluids so that you do not become dehydrated (lack of water in the body from losing too much fluid).
- If you have diarrhea, eat low-fiber foods that are high in protein and calories and avoid foods that can irritate your digestive tracts or lead to cramping.
- If you are not able to move your bowels, check with your care team before you use enemas, laxatives, or suppositories.
- Ask your care team about medicine that can lessen or stop your diarrhea and/or constipation.
- To help with nausea and vomiting, eat small, frequent meals instead of three large meals a day. Choose foods and drinks that are at room temperature. Ask your care team about other helpful tips and medicine that is available to help stop or lessen these symptoms
- To help with decreased appetite, eat small, frequent meals and include a source of protein at every meal and snack, such as meat, poultry, fish, dry beans, tofu, eggs, nuts, milk, yogurt, cheese, ice cream, pudding, and nutritional supplements.
- Consider using sauces and spices to increase taste. Daily exercise, with your care team's approval, may increase your appetite.
- To help with weight loss, drink fluids that contribute calories (whole milk, juice, soft drinks, sweetened beverages, milkshakes, and nutritional supplements) instead of water.
- If you get a rash do not put anything on it unless your care team says you may. Keep the area around the rash clean and dry. Ask your care team for medicine if your rash bothers you.
- Use a gentle, unscented lotion to keep your hands and feet soft. A cream with 10% or 20% urea may help. Don't rub your hands or feet too much.
- Try not to put your hands or feet in hot water, like baths, showers, or washing dishes. Wear gloves when doing work with your hands. Avoid tight shoes or socks.

Food and Medicine Interactions

- Avoid grapefruit or grapefruit juice while taking this medicine as it may raise the levels of axitinib in your body which could make side effects worse.
- Check with your care team about all other prescription medicines and over-the-counter medicines and dietary supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbs, and others) you are taking before starting this medicine as there are known medicine interactions with axitinib. Also, check with your care team before starting any new prescription or over-the-counter medicines, or dietary supplements to make sure that there are no interactions.
- Avoid the use of St. John's Wort while taking axitinib as this may lower the levels of the medicine in your body, which can make it less effective.

When to Call Your Care Team



Call your care team if you have any of these symptoms and/or any new or unusual symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher
- Chills
- Tiredness and/or weakness that interferes with your daily activities
- Headache that does not go away
- Blurry vision or other changes in eyesight
- Confusion
- Extreme tiredness and/or coma
- Trouble understanding
- Symptoms of a seizure such as confusion, blacking out, passing out, loss of hearing or vision, blurred vision, unusual smells or tastes (such as burning rubber), trouble talking, tremors or shaking in parts or all of the body, repeated body movements, tense muscles that do not relax, and loss of control of urine and bowels. **If you or your family member suspects you are having a seizure, call 911 right away.**
- Symptoms of a stroke such as sudden numbness or weakness of your face, arm, or leg, mostly on one side of your body; sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden trouble walking, feeling dizzy, loss of balance or coordination; or sudden, bad headache with no known cause. **If you have any of these symptoms for 2 minutes, call 911.**
- Wheezing and/or trouble breathing
- Feeling that your heart is beating fast or in a not normal way (palpitations)
- Chest pain or symptoms of a heart attack. Most heart attacks involve pain in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes. The pain may go away and come back. It can feel like pressure, squeezing, fullness, or pain. Sometimes pain is felt in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw, or stomach. **If any of these symptoms last 2 minutes, call 911.**
- Severe pain in your abdomen that does not go away
- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking and/or is not relieved by prescribed medicine
- Throwing up more than 3 times a day
- Difficulty swallowing
- Diarrhea, 4 times in one day or diarrhea with lack of strength or a feeling of being dizzy
- No bowel movement in 3 days or when you feel uncomfortable
- Lasting loss of appetite or rapid weight loss of five pounds in a week
- Painful, red, or swollen areas on your hands or feet
- Numbness and/or tingling of your hands and/or feet
- Your leg is swollen, red, warm, and/or painful
- Swelling of the legs, feet, or ankles
- Foamy or bubbly-looking urine
- Signs of increased thyroid function: unexplained weight loss, sweating, irritability, feeling that your heart is beating fast or in a not normal way (palpitations)
- Signs of low thyroid function: tiredness, unexplained weight gain, hair loss, dry skin, constipation, increased sensitivity to cold

- Signs of abnormal bleeding such as coughing up blood, throwing up blood (may look like coffee grounds), easy bleeding or bruising, red or black tarry bowel movements, abnormally heavy menstrual flow, nosebleeds, or any other unusual bleeding
- Signs of possible liver problems: dark urine, pale bowel movements, pain in your abdomen, feeling very tired and weak, unusual itching, or yellowing of the eyes or skin
- Weight gain of 5 pounds in one week (fluid retention)

Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** This medicine can cause serious birth defects. If you can become pregnant, use birth control while taking this medicine and for 1 week after the last dose. If you can get your partner pregnant, use birth control while taking this medicine and for 1 week after the last dose. Tell your care team right away if you think you might be pregnant or think your partner might be pregnant. When receiving axitinib in combination with other agents, please refer to the medicine guide of those agents for more specific information.
- **Breastfeeding warning:** Do not breastfeed while taking this medicine and for 2 weeks after the last dose. When receiving axitinib in combination with other agents, please refer to the medicine guide of those agents for more specific information.
- **Fertility warning:** This medicine may affect your ability to have children in the future. If you plan to have children, talk with your care team.

Revised September 2025