

Cabozantinib (capsule) (Cometriq)

About This Medicine

CABOZANTINIB (KA boe ZAN ti nib) treats thyroid 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 orally (by mouth).

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

Possible Side Effects

- A decrease in the number of white blood cells and platelets. This may raise your risk of infection and raise your risk of bleeding.
- Soreness of the mouth and throat. You may have red areas, white patches, or sores that hurt.
- Nausea
- Constipation (not able to move bowels)
- Diarrhea (loose bowel movements)
- Pain in your abdomen
- Tiredness
- Changes in your liver function
- Electrolyte changes
- Decreased appetite (decreased hunger)
- Changes in the way food and drinks taste
- Weight loss
- Changes to the color of your hair
- 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 25% or greater of people treated with cabozantinib (Cometriq). 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

- 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 opening in your stomach, intestine or esophagus, or other organs, which can be life-threatening.
- Blood clots and events such as stroke and heart attack. 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.
- Osteonecrosis of the jaw. This is a breakdown of the jawbone. This is a serious but rare health problem.
- Slow wound healing
- Increased protein in your urine, which can affect how your kidneys work
- Severe diarrhea
- Severe hand-foot syndrome
- 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.**
- Severe high blood pressure
- Decreased level of calcium in your blood

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

- Do not substitute the capsules for the tablets or the tablets for the capsules.
- Cabozantinib (Cometriq) may cause slow wound healing. It should not be given within at least 3 weeks of planned surgery or any major dental work and for at least 2 weeks and until adequate wound healing following major surgery. If you must have planned/emergency surgery, dental work or have an accident that results in a wound, tell the care team that you are on cabozantinib (Cometriq).

How to Take Your Medicine

- Swallow the medicine whole with a full glass of water (at least 8 ounces). Take it on an empty stomach. Do not eat for at least two hours before cabozantinib (Cometriq) is taken and for at least one hour after cabozantinib (Cometriq) is taken.
- Do not crush or open the capsules.
- **Missed dose:** If you miss a dose, and it is less than 12 hours until your next dose, then skip the missed dose and go back to your normal schedule. If you miss a dose, and it is more than 12 hours until your next dose, take it as soon as you think about it. Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.



- **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.
- To decrease the risk of infection, wash your hands regularly.
- Avoid close contact with people who have a cold, the flu, or other infections.
- Take your temperature as your care team tells you, and whenever you feel like you may have a fever.
- To help decrease the risk of bleeding, use a soft toothbrush. Check with your care team before using dental floss.
- Be very careful when using knives or tools.
- Use an electric shaver instead of a razor.
- Drink enough fluids to keep your urine pale yellow.
- Mouth care is very important. Your mouth care should consist of routine, gentle cleaning of your teeth or dentures and rinsing your mouth with a mixture of 1/2 teaspoon of salt in 8 ounces of water or 1/2 teaspoon of baking soda in 8 ounces of water. This should be done at least after each meal and at bedtime.
- If you have mouth sores, avoid mouthwash that has alcohol. Also avoid alcohol and smoking because they can bother your mouth and throat.
- Taking good care of your mouth may help food taste better and improve your appetite.
- If you are not able to move your bowels, check with your care team before you use enemas, laxatives, or suppositories.
- 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.
- 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.



- Ask your care team about medicines that are available to help stop or lessen constipation, diarrhea and/or nausea.
- To help with weight loss, drink fluids that contribute calories (whole milk, juice, soft drinks, sweetened beverages, milkshakes, and nutritional supplements) instead of water.
- To help with decreased appetite, eat small, frequent meals. Eat foods high in calories and protein, 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.
- Keeping your pain under control is important to your wellbeing. Please tell your care team if you are experiencing pain.
- 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.
- Avoid sun exposure and apply sunscreen routinely when outdoors.
- Tell your dentist and/or oral surgeon that you are taking this medicine. You should not have major dental surgery while on this medicine. Talk to your care team about any dental problems you may have before starting this medicine. You may need to see your dentist to have a dental exam and fix any dental problems before starting this medicine. Take good care of your teeth. Make sure you see your dentist for regular follow-up appointments.

Food and Medicine Interactions

- Avoid grapefruit or grapefruit juice while taking this medicine as it may raise the levels of cabozantinib (Cometriq) 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 cabozantinib (Cometriq). 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 cabozantinib (Cometriq) 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 the following symptoms and/or any new or unusual symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher
- Chills
- Tiredness that interferes with your daily activities
- Headache that does not go away
- 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.**



- Blurry vision or other changes in eyesight
- Confusion
- Wheezing and/or trouble breathing
- 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.**
- 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.**
- Pain in your mouth or throat that makes it hard to eat or drink
- Changes in the way food and drink taste that is causing a loss of appetite
- Lasting loss of appetite or rapid weight loss of five pounds in a week
- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking and/or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Throwing up more than 3 times a day
- Trouble swallowing
- No bowel movement for 3 days or when you feel uncomfortable
- Diarrhea, 4 times in one day or diarrhea with weakness or lightheadedness
- Severe abdominal pain that does not go away
- 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
- 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 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
- Signs of osteonecrosis of the jaw such as pain, swelling or infection of the gums, loose teeth, poor healing of the gums, numbness, or the feeling that your jaw is heavy
- Signs of low calcium: numbness or tingling around your mouth or in your hands and/or feet, muscle stiffness, twitching, spasms, or cramps
- Foamy or bubbly-looking urine
- If you think you may be pregnant

Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** This medicine can have harmful effects on the unborn baby. Women of childbearing potential should use effective methods of birth control during your cancer treatment and for at least 4 months after stopping treatment. Let your care team know right away if you think you may be pregnant.
- **Breastfeeding warning:** Women should not breastfeed during treatment and for 4 months after stopping treatment because this medicine could enter the breast milk and cause harm to a breastfeeding baby.



- **Fertility warning:** In men and women both, this medicine may affect your ability to have children in the future. Talk with your care team if you plan to have children. Ask for information on sperm or egg banking.

Revised August 2024

