UPMC | HILLMAN CANCER CENTER

Decitabine and cedazuridine (Inqovi)

About This Medicine

DECITABINE; CEDAZURIDINE (dee SYE ta been; sed az ure i deen) treats blood and bone marrow cancers. It works by slowing down the growth 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

- Bone marrow suppression. This is a decrease in the number of white blood cells, red blood cells, and platelets. This may raise your risk of infection, make you tired and weak, and raise your risk of bleeding.
- Neutropenic fever. A type of fever that can develop when you have a very low number of white blood cells which can be life-threatening.
- Abnormal electrocardiogram (EKG/ECG)
- Decrease in a blood protein called albumin
- Soreness of the mouth and throat. You may have red areas, white patches, or sores that hurt.
- Nausea
- Diarrhea (loose bowel movements)
- Constipation (unable to move bowels)
- Pain in your abdomen
- Abnormal bleeding – 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.
- Swelling of the hands, feet, or any other part of the body
- Electrolyte changes
- Blood sugar levels may change
- Infection
- Sepsis- a serious illness from an infection, which can be life-threatening
- Changes in your liver function
- Changes in your kidney function
- Tiredness
- Decreased appetite (decreased hunger)
- Muscle aching/pain and joint pain
- Feeling dizzy
- Headache

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- Upper respiratory tract infection
- Pneumonia
- Cough
- Trouble breathing
- Rash

Note: *Each of the side effects above was reported in 20% or greater of people treated with decitabine and cedazuridine. 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 bone marrow suppression and serious infections can occur which can be life-threatening.

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

How to Take Your Medicine

- Take this medicine by mouth without food. Do not eat at least 2 hours before and 2 hours after you take this medicine. Swallow tablets whole at approximately the same time each day. Do not cut, crush, or chew tablets.
- **Missed dose:** If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you can if it is within 12 hours of the usual time. If you missed a dose by more than 12 hours, then skip the missed dose. Extend the dosing period by one day for every missed dose to make sure you complete 5 daily doses for each cycle.
- If you vomit 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 takeback 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.

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Treating Side Effects

- Manage tiredness by pacing your activities for the day.
- If you are dizzy, get up slowly after sitting or lying.
- Be sure to include periods of rest between energy-draining activities.
- Get regular exercise, with your care team's approval. If you feel too tired to exercise vigorously, try taking a short walk.
- 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 your 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.
- 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).
- 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 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- If you have diabetes, keep good control of your blood sugar level. Tell your care team if your glucose levels are higher or lower than normal.
- Signs of electrolyte changes: confusion, agitation, feeling that your heart is beating fast, passing out, seizure and/or coma, numbness or tingling around your mouth or in your hands and/or feet, muscle stiffness, twitching, spasms, or cramps
- 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.

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- Keeping your pain under control is important to your well-being. Please tell your care team if you are experiencing pain.

Food and Medicine Interactions

- There are no known interactions of decitabine and cedazuridine with food, however, this medicine should be taken on an empty stomach.
- 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 decitabine and cedazuridine. 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.

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
- Headache that does not go away
- Tiredness and/or weakness that interferes with your daily activities
- Feeling dizzy or lightheaded
- Feeling that your heart is beating fast or in a not normal way (palpitations)
- Wheezing and/or trouble breathing
- Cough that is bothersome or coughing up yellow, green, or bloody mucus
- Fast breathing
- Pain in your mouth or throat that makes it hard to eat or drink
- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking and/or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Throwing up more than 3 times a day
- 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
- Pain in your abdomen that does not go away
- Weight gain of 5 pounds in one week (fluid retention)
- Swelling of the hands, feet, or any other part of the body
- Lasting loss of appetite or rapid weight loss of five pounds in a week
- Decreased or very dark urine
- 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
- 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 infection: fever or chills, cough, trouble breathing, severe pain in your abdomen, trouble urinating, burning or pain when you pass urine, redness and/or swelling of the skin

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- Pain that does not go away, or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Abnormal blood sugar
- Signs of high blood sugar: unusual thirst, passing urine often, headache, sweating, shakiness, irritability
- Signs of low blood sugar: feeling sleepy, increased hunger, sweating, shakiness, irritability
- New rash and/or itching
- Rash that is not relieved by prescribed medicines

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 6 months after the last dose. If you can get your partner pregnant, use birth control while taking this medicine and for 3 months after the last dose. Tell your care team right away if you think you might be pregnant or think your partner might be pregnant.
- **Breastfeeding warning**: Do not breastfeed while taking this medicine and for 2 weeks after the last dose.
- **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.

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