Fruquintinib (Fruzaqla)

About This Medicine

Fruquintinib is used to treat cancer. It is given orally (by mouth).

Possible Side Effects

- Diarrhea (loose bowel movements)
- Pain in your abdomen
- Voice changes/hoarseness
- Increased protein in your urine, which can affect how your kidneys work
- 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 patients treated with fruquintinib. 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 medical 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.
- Slow wound healing
- Perforation or fistula- an abnormal hole in your stomach, intestine, esophagus, or other organ, which can be life-threatening.
- Risk of severe and life-threatening infections
- Changes in your liver 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 doctor know right away.
- 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.
- Severe high blood pressure

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

**Important**

- Tell your doctor before taking this medicine if you have an allergy to FDandC Yellow No. 5 (tartrazine) and/or No. 6 (Sunset Yellow FCF). Fruquintinib contains FDandC Yellow No. 5 and No. 6 which may cause allergic-type reactions in certain people, especially people who also have an allergy to aspirin.
- Fruquintinib may cause slow wound healing. It should not be given within 2 weeks of planned surgery and for at least 2 weeks and until adequate wound healing following major surgery. If you must have emergency surgery or have an accident that results in a wound, tell the doctor that you are on fruquintinib.

**How to Take Your Medicine**

- Swallow the medicine whole with or without food, at approximately the same time each day.
- **Missed dose:** If you miss a dose by less than 12 hours, take the missed dose right away and go back to your normal schedule. If you miss a dose by more than 12 hours, then skip the missed dose and go back to your normal schedule. Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses to make up for a missed dose. Do not replace a vomited dose.
- **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.
- Cytotoxic medicines leave the body through urine and stool, but they can also be present in 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 health care provider after your treatment. If you take a cytotoxic pill each day, follow these precautions every day.
- **Storage:** Store this medicine in the original container at room temperature.
- **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 nurse or your doctor how to dispose of unused medicine.

**Treating Side Effects**

- 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 doctor or nurse tells you, and whenever you feel like you may have a fever.
- 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.
• Ask your nurse or doctor about medicine that can lessen or stop diarrhea.
• Keeping your pain under control is important to your well-being. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you are experiencing pain.
• Avoid sun exposure and apply sunscreen routinely when outdoors.
• If you get a rash do not put anything on it unless your doctor or nurse says you may. Keep the area around the rash clean and dry. Ask your doctor for medicine if your rash bothers you.

Food and Medicine Interactions

• There are no known interactions of fruquintinib with food.
• Check with your doctor or pharmacist 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 fruquintinib. Also, check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new prescription or over-the-counter medicines, or dietary supplements to make sure that there are no interactions.
• This medicine may interact with St. John’s Wort and may lower the levels of the medicine in your body, which can make it less effective.

When to Call the Doctor

Call your doctor or nurse if you have any of these symptoms and/or any new or unusual symptoms:

• Fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher
• Chills
• Blurry vision or other changes in eyesight
• Headache that does not go away
• Confusion
• Extreme tiredness and/or coma
• 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.
• 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.**

- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking 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
- Pain in your abdomen that does not go away
- Foamy or bubbly-looking urine
- 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 infection: fever or chills, cough, trouble breathing, severe pain in your abdomen, difficulty urinating, burning or pain when you pass urine, redness and/or swelling of the skin
- 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
- If you think you may be pregnant or may have impregnated your partner

**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 2 weeks after stopping treatment. Men with female partners of childbearing potential should use effective methods of birth control during your cancer treatment and for 2 weeks after stopping treatment. Let your doctor know right away if you think you may be pregnant or may have impregnated your partner.

- **Breastfeeding warning:** Women should not breast feed during treatment and for 2 weeks after stopping treatment because this medicine could enter the breast milk and cause harm to a breastfeeding baby.

- **Fertility warning:** Fertility studies have not been done with this medicine. Talk with your doctor or nurse if you plan to have children. Ask for information on sperm or egg banking.

New November 2023