

## Sunitinib (Sutent)

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### About This Medicine

SUNITINIB (soo NI ti nib) treats some types of 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

- Decrease in the number of platelets. This may raise your risk of bleeding.
- Soreness of the mouth and throat. You may have red areas, white patches, or sores that hurt.
- Nausea and vomiting (throwing up)
- Indigestion
- Pain in your abdomen
- Diarrhea (loose bowel movements)
- 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
- Tiredness and weakness
- Decreased appetite (decreased hunger)
- Changes in the way food and drinks taste
- 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 sunitinib. 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

- Changes in your heart function which can be life-threatening. This medicine may increase your risk of heart attack, abnormal electrocardiogram (EKG/ECG), and abnormal heartbeat. You may also be

at risk of congestive heart failure - your heart is not pumping blood as well as it should be, and fluid can build up in your body.

- Severe high blood pressure
- Severe abnormal bleeding which can be life-threatening
- Damage to small blood vessels which can cause bleeding and blood clots and can be life-threatening
- Increased protein in your urine which can affect how your kidneys work and cause renal failure, which can be life-threatening.
- Tumor lysis syndrome: This medicine may act on the cancer cells very quickly. This may affect how your kidneys work.
- Changes in your liver function, which can cause liver failure and be life-threatening
- Changes in your thyroid function
- Blood sugar levels may decrease
- Severe allergic skin reaction which can rarely be life-threatening. You may develop blisters on your skin that are filled with fluid or a severe red rash all over your body that may be painful.
- Osteonecrosis of the jaw. This is a breakdown of the jawbone. It is a serious but rare health problem.
- Slow wound healing
- 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.**

**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

- Sunitinib may cause slow wound healing. It should not be given within at least 3 weeks of planned surgery and/or dental procedures, 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 your care team you are on sunitinib.

## How to Take Your Medicine

- Swallow the medicine whole with or without food.
- **Missed dose:** If you miss a dose by less than 12 hours, take it as soon as you think about it. If you miss a dose by more than 12 hours, then skip the missed dose and take your next dose at the regular time.
- **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

- To 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.
- Manage tiredness by pacing your activities for the day. Be sure to include periods of rest between energy-draining activities.
- 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.
- Keeping your pain under control is important to your wellbeing. Please tell your care team if you are experiencing pain.
- 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.
- 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 care team about medicines that are available to help stop or lessen diarrhea.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 and/or grapefruit juice while taking this medicine, as it may raise the levels of sunitinib 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 sunitinib. 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.
- 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 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
- Flu-like symptoms: fever, headache, muscle and joint aches, and fatigue (low energy, feeling weak)
- Tiredness or weakness that interferes with your daily activities
- Feeling dizzy or lightheaded
- Headache that does not go away
- Blurry vision or other changes in eyesight
- 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.**
- 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
- Wheezing and/or trouble breathing
- Swelling of the legs, feet, or ankles



- 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 or it can be constant. 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.**
- Feeling that your heart is beating in a fast or not normal way (palpitations)
- Pain in your abdomen that does not go away
- 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
- Weight gain of 5 pounds in one week (fluid retention)
- Decreased or very dark urine
- Foamy or bubbly-looking urine
- Abnormal blood sugar
- Signs of low blood sugar: feeling sleepy, increased hunger, sweating, shakiness, irritability
- Signs of tumor lysis: confusion or agitation, decreased urine, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, muscle cramping, numbness and/or tingling, or seizures
- 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 low thyroid function: tiredness, unexplained weight gain, hair loss, dry skin, constipation, increased sensitivity to cold

Signs of increased thyroid function: unexplained weight loss, sweating, irritability, feeling that your heart is beating fast or in a not normal way (palpitations)

- New rash and/or itching that is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- 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
- Signs of osteonecrosis of the jaw: pain, swelling or infection of the gums, loose teeth, poor healing of the gums, numbness or the feeling that your jaw is heavy

## 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 at least 4 weeks after the last dose. If you can get your partner pregnant, use birth control while taking this medicine and for 7 weeks 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 at least 4 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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