

Axitinib

Care Team Contact Information: _____

Pharmacy Contact Information: _____

Diagnosis: _____

- This treatment is often used for a type of kidney cancer called renal cell carcinoma (RCC).
- It may also be used for other reasons.

Goal of Treatment: _____

- Treatment may continue for a certain time period, until it no longer works, or until side effects are no longer controlled.

Treatment Regimen

Treatment Name	How the Treatment Works	How the Treatment is Given
Axitinib (AK-sih-TIH-nib): Inlyta (in-LY-tuh)	Slows down or stops the growth of cancer cells by blocking specific proteins involved in tumor growth and the formation of blood vessels.	Tablet(s) taken by mouth

Treatment Administration and Schedule

Your axitinib dosing instructions:

- Axitinib comes in 2 tablet strengths: 1 mg and 5 mg.
- Your dose might differ, but axitinib is typically taken as one 5 mg tablet twice a day.
- Axitinib can be taken with or without food.
- Take axitinib 2 times a day about 12 hours apart.
- Swallow axitinib tablets whole with a glass of water. Do not crush, cut, or dissolve the tablets.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking axitinib unless your care team tells you to.
- Your care team may tell you to change your dose, temporarily stop, or completely stop taking axitinib if you develop certain side effects.
- If you vomit or miss a dose of axitinib, take your next dose at your regular time. Do not take two doses at the same time.
- If you take too much axitinib, call your care team or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

Storage and Handling of Axitinib

- Store axitinib at room temperature between 68°F and 77°F (20°C and 25°C).
- Keep axitinib and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.
- Ask your care team how to safely throw away any unused axitinib.

Appointments

Appointments may include regular check-ups with your care team, lab visits, and imaging tests. It's important to keep your appointments whenever you can. If you miss any appointments, call your care provider as soon as possible to reschedule your appointment.

Supportive Care to Prevent and Treat Side Effects

Description	Supportive Care Taken at Home
To help prevent or treat nausea and vomiting	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Other	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Common Side Effects

Side Effect	Important Information
Low Red Blood Cell (RBC) Count and Hemoglobin (Hgb) (Anemia)	<p>Description: RBCs and Hgb carry oxygen to your body's tissues and remove carbon dioxide. Low RBC or Hgb (anemia) can make you feel weak, very tired, or look pale.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim for 7 to 8 hours of sleep each night. • Do not drive, operate heavy machinery, or do other dangerous activities if you are very tired. • Balance activity and rest — stay as active as you can, but rest when needed. • Eat a balanced diet and follow any nutrition or supplement advice from your care team. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortness of breath • Dizziness or fainting • Fast or irregular heartbeats • Sudden or severe headache

<p>Fatigue</p>	<p>Description: Fatigue is a constant and sometimes strong feeling of tiredness.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine exercise can help reduce fatigue. Talk with your care team to find the right type and amount of activity for you. • Ask family and friends for help with daily tasks and for emotional support. • Try healthy ways to feel better, such as meditation, journaling, yoga, or guided imagery, to reduce anxiety and improve well-being. • Aim for 7 to 8 hours of sleep each night. Limit daytime naps to help you sleep better at night. • Do not drive, operate heavy machinery, or do other potentially dangerous activities if you are very tired. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tiredness that affects your daily life or prevents you from doing normal activities • Tiredness that does not get better with rest • Dizziness or weakness along with severe tiredness
<p>High Blood Pressure (Hypertension)</p>	<p>Description: High blood pressure means the force of blood against your artery walls is too high. Treatment can raise your blood pressure or make it harder to control.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise regularly, control your weight, and limit alcohol and salt (sodium). • Take blood pressure medicines as prescribed. Your care team may change your medicines if needed. • Your care team may ask you to check and record your blood pressure at home. Bring readings to appointments. • Follow diet and lifestyle advice from your care team. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe or new headaches • Dizziness or lightheadedness • Blurred vision • Trouble breathing • Nosebleeds that do not stop • A pounding sensation in your chest, neck, or ears • Irregular or fast heartbeats • Chest pain or pressure
<p>Nausea and Vomiting</p>	<p>Description: Nausea is an uncomfortable feeling in your stomach or the need to throw up. You may or may not vomit.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eat smaller, more frequent meals. • Avoid fatty, fried, spicy, or highly sweet foods. • Eat bland foods at room temperature and drink clear liquids. • If you vomit, start with small sips of water, broth, or other clear liquids. If these stay down, try soft foods (such as gelatin, plain cornstarch pudding, yogurt, strained soup, or strained cooked cereal) and gradually return to solid foods. • Your care team may prescribe medicine for these symptoms. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vomiting for more than 24 hours • Nonstop vomiting • Signs of dehydration (very thirsty, dry mouth, dizziness, or dark urine) • Blood or coffee-ground-like appearance in your vomit • Severe stomach pain that does not go away after vomiting

<p>Voice Changes or Hoarseness</p>	<p>Description: Hoarseness is when you have a weak, rough, or harsh voice.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink plenty of water and avoiding irritants (e.g., dust, smoke, alcohol, industrial chemicals). • Write things down to give your voice a break. • Avoid shouting or whispering. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe hoarseness • Pain or soreness in the throat
<p>Low Appetite</p>	<p>Description: Loss of appetite can lead to weight loss and low energy. Small changes in when and what you eat can help maintain strength and nutrition.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be as active as you can. Do light physical activity before a meal (check with your care team before starting an exercise program). • Note times of day when your appetite is best and eat your largest meal then. • Eat 5–6 small meals or snacks each day. • Choose high-protein foods (beans, chicken, fish, meat, yogurt, tofu, eggs). Eat protein first during meals. • Choose higher-calorie foods (avoid “low-fat,” “fat-free,” or “diet” options when trying to gain/maintain weight). • If you feel full quickly, avoid drinking 30 minutes before a meal and drink liquids between meals; choose calorie-containing drinks rather than diet drinks. • Have a bedtime snack that’s easy to digest (for example, peanut butter and crackers). If you have reflux, wait at least 1 hour before lying down. • Try nutritious beverages (high-protein shakes or smoothies) if solid food is unappealing. • Ask your care team about liquid nutrition supplements and ways to add protein or calories (protein powder, yogurt, ice cream). <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unintentional weight loss • Little or no appetite for several days • Excessive tiredness or low energy
<p>Liver Problems</p>	<p>Description: Treatment can cause liver injury. Your care team may check your liver with blood tests before and during treatment.</p> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowing of your skin or the white part of your eyes (jaundice) • Severe nausea or vomiting • Pain on the right side of your stomach area (abdomen) • Dark, tea-colored urine • Bleeding or bruising more easily than normal

<p>Diarrhea</p>	<p>Description: Diarrhea is loose, watery stools or more frequent bowel movements than usual. It can cause dehydration and weakness.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep track of how often you go to the bathroom each day. • Drink 8 to 10 glasses of water or other fluids daily, unless your care team tells you otherwise. • Eat small meals of mild, low-fiber foods (such as bananas, applesauce, potatoes, chicken, rice, and toast). • If you have diarrhea, avoid high-fiber foods (such as raw vegetables, fruits, and whole grains), gas-producing foods (such as broccoli and beans), dairy (such as milk and yogurt), and spicy, fried, or greasy foods. • Your care team may recommend an antidiarrheal medicine such as loperamide (Imodium). <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 or more bowel movements than normal in 24 hours • Dizziness or lightheadedness while having diarrhea • Signs of dehydration (very thirsty, dry mouth, dizziness, or dark urine) • Bloody diarrhea
<p>Kidney Problems</p>	<p>Description: Treatment can cause kidney problems, including damage to the kidneys and decreased kidney function. Your care team will monitor your kidney function during treatment.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink 8 to 10 glasses of water or other fluids each day, unless your care team tells you otherwise. • Your care team may give you fluids and electrolytes with your treatment. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease in your amount of urine • Blood in your urine • Swelling of your ankles • Loss of appetite
<p>Changes in Electrolytes and Other Laboratory Results</p>	<p>Description: Treatment may cause low levels of calcium and low levels of bicarbonate in your blood. Your care team will do blood tests to check you for these changes and will treat you if needed.</p> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe muscle cramps or spasms • Tingling or numbness around the mouth, hands, or feet • New weakness or trouble breathing • Fast, irregular, or pounding heartbeat • Confusion, fainting, or seizures • Sudden weight gain • Swelling of your arms, hands, legs, or ankles

Select Rare Side Effects

Side Effect	Talk to Your Care Team if You Have Any of These Signs or Symptoms	
Blood Clots or Blockage (Thrombosis) in Your Blood Vessels (Arteries and Veins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chest pain or pressure • Swelling or pain in your arms, back, neck, or jaw • Shortness of breath 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbness or weakness on one side of your body • Trouble talking • Headache • Vision changes
Severe Bleeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vomiting blood or if your vomit looks like coffee-grounds • Pink or brown urine • Red or black (looks like tar) stools • Coughing up blood or blood clots • Menstrual bleeding that is heavier than normal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unusual vaginal bleeding • Nose bleeds that happen often • Bruising • Lightheadedness
Heart Problems, Including Heart Failure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swelling of your stomach area (abdomen), legs, hands, feet, or ankles • Shortness of breath • Nausea or vomiting • New or worsening chest discomfort, including pain or pressure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weight gain • Pain or discomfort in your arms, back, neck, or jaw • Protruding neck veins • Breaking out in a cold sweat • Feeling lightheaded or dizzy
A Tear in Your Stomach or Intestinal Wall (Perforation) or an Abnormal Connection Between 2 Parts of Your Body (Fistula)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Severe pain or tenderness in your stomach area (abdomen) • Swelling of the abdomen • Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher • Chills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nausea • Vomiting • Signs of dehydration (very thirsty, dry mouth, dizziness, or dark urine)
Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy Syndrome (PRES)	<p>A neurologic condition called PRES can happen during treatment with axitinib.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe headache • Confusion • Weakness • Seizures • Blindness or change in vision 	
Thyroid Gland Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extreme tiredness • Feeling hot or cold • Your voice gets deeper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weight gain or loss • Hair loss

**Before starting treatment, ask your care team when to call 9-1-1 or seek emergency help.
If you experience any new, worsening, or uncontrolled side effects, contact your care team immediately.**

Intimacy, Fertility, Pregnancy, and Breastfeeding

- Treatment may **change how you feel about intimacy and your body**. However, physical closeness—such as holding hands and hugging—remains safe. It is common to have questions about intimacy. If needed, talk to your care team for guidance.
- Treatment may affect your **ability to have children**. It may damage your reproductive organs or stop them from working. If you are worried about fertility, talk to your care team before starting treatment.
- Treatment may **harm an unborn baby**.
 - If you are able to become pregnant:
 - Take a pregnancy test before starting treatment.
 - Use an effective method of birth control during treatment and for 1 week after your last dose of axitinib.
 - If you think you might be pregnant or if you become pregnant, tell your care team right away.
 - If your partner is able to become pregnant, use an effective method of birth control—such as condoms—during treatment and for 1 week after your last dose of axitinib.
- **Do NOT breastfeed** during treatment and for 2 weeks after your last dose of axitinib.

Additional Information

- **Tell your care team about all the medicines you take.**
This includes prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, and herbal products. Before starting any new medicine, supplement, or vaccine, ask your care team first.
- **Wound healing problems.** Wound healing problems have happened in some people who take axitinib. Tell your care team if you plan to have any surgery before or during treatment with axitinib.
 - You should stop taking axitinib at least 2 days before planned surgery.
 - Your care team should tell you when you may start taking axitinib again after surgery.
- **You should not drink grapefruit juice or eat grapefruit during treatment with axitinib.** Grapefruit may increase the amount of axitinib in your blood.
- **This Patient Education Sheet may not describe all possible side effects.**
Call your care team for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

Notes

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Scan the QR code below to access this education sheet.



Important notice: The Association of Cancer Care Centers (ACCC), Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA), Network for Collaborative Oncology Development & Advancement, Inc. (NCODA), and Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) have collaborated in gathering information for and developing this patient education guide. This guide represents a brief summary of the medication derived from information provided by the drug manufacturer and other resources.

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PES-348