

Cabozantinib

Care Team Contact Information: _____

Pharmacy Contact Information: _____

Diagnosis: _____

- This treatment is used for:
 - A type of kidney cancer called renal cell carcinoma (RCC)
 - A type of liver cancer called hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC)
 - Medullary thyroid cancer (MTC)
 - A type of thyroid cancer called differentiated thyroid carcinoma (DTC)
 - Neuroendocrine tumors
- 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
Cabozantinib (KA-boh-ZAN-tih-nib): Cabometyx (KA-boh-MEH-tix), Cometriq (koh-MEH-trik)	Slows down or stops the growth of cancer or tumor cells by blocking specific proteins involved in tumor growth and the formation of blood vessels.	• Tablet(s) taken by mouth. • Capsule(s) taken by mouth.

Treatment Administration and Schedule

Your cabozantinib dosing instructions:

- Do not change your dose or stop taking cabozantinib unless your care team tells you to.
- Your care team may tell you to change your dose, temporarily stop, or completely stop taking cabozantinib if you develop certain side effects.
- If you vomit or miss a dose of cabozantinib and your next scheduled dose is in less than 12 hours, take your next dose at the normal time. Do not make up the missed dose.
- If you take too much cabozantinib, call your care team or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

Treatment Administration and Schedule (Continued)

☐ Cabometyx Information

- Cabometyx comes in 3 tablet strengths: 20 mg, 40 mg, and 60 mg.
- Your dose might differ, but Cabometyx is typically taken as one 40 mg tablet by mouth once daily, or one 60 mg tablet by mouth once daily.
- Take Cabometyx 1 time each day, around the same time each day.
- Do not take Cabometyx with food. Take Cabometyx at least 1 hour before or at least 2 hours after eating.
- Swallow Cabometyx tablets whole.
- Do not crush, chew or split Cabometyx tablets.

☐ Cometriq Information

- Cometriq comes in 2 capsule strengths: 20 mg and 80 mg. It is supplied as 60 mg, 100 mg, and 140 mg daily-dose cartons. Your care team will tell you which capsules to take.
- Your dose might differ, but Cometriq is typically taken as 140 mg (one 140 mg daily-dose blister card containing one 80 mg capsule and three 20 mg capsules) by mouth once daily.
- Take Cometriq 1 time each day, around the same time each day.
- Do not take Cometriq with food. Do not eat for at least 2 hours before and at least 1 hour after taking Cometriq.
- Swallow Cometriq capsules whole with a full glass (at least 8 ounces) of water.
- Do not crush or open Cometriq capsules.

Storage and Handling of Cabozantinib

- Store cabozantinib at room temperature between 68°F and 77°F (20°C and 25°C).
- People who are or may be pregnant should wear gloves when handling cabozantinib.
- Keep cabozantinib and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.
- Ask your care team how to safely throw away any unused cabozantinib.

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 an appointment, call your care team as soon as possible to reschedule it.

Supportive Care to Prevent and Treat Side Effects

Description	Supportive Care Taken at Home
To help prevent or treat nausea and vomiting	
Other	

Common Side Effects

Side Effect	Important Information
Low White Blood Cell (WBC) Count (Neutropenia) and Increased Risk of Infection	Description: WBCs help protect your body from infections. A low WBC count increases your risk of infection. Recommendations: - Wash your hands often and bathe regularly. - Avoid crowded places and close contact with people who are sick. - Follow food safety and wound care advice from your care team. - Your care team may prescribe medicine to help your WBCs recover. Talk to your care team if you have: - Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher - Chills - New or worsening cough or sore throat - Painful urination or signs of a urinary infection - Feeling much more tired than usual - Red, swollen, warm, or painful areas on the skin (possible skin infection)
Low Platelet Count (Thrombocytopenia)	Description: Platelets help your blood clot and wounds heal. A low platelet count increases your risk of bruising and bleeding. Recommendations: - Blow your nose gently and avoid picking it. - Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush and keep good oral hygiene. - Use an electric razor for shaving and a nail file instead of nail clippers. - Avoid over-the-counter medicines that can increase bleeding risk (for example, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like ibuprofen). - Talk with your care team or dentist before medical or dental procedures — you may need to pause treatment. Talk to your care team if you have: - A nosebleed lasting more than 5 minutes despite pressure - A cut that continues to bleed - Heavy gum bleeding when brushing or flossing - Sudden or severe headache - Blood in your urine or stool - Blood in your spit after coughing
Low Red Blood Cell (RBC) Count and Hemoglobin (Hgb) (Anemia)	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 or very tired, or may make you look pale. Recommendations: - 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. Talk to your care team if you have: - Shortness of breath - Dizziness or fainting - Fast or irregular heartbeats - Sudden or severe headache

High Blood Pressure (Hypertension)	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. Recommendations: • Exercise regularly, maintain a healthy 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. Talk to your care team if you have: • 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
High Triglyceride Levels (Hypertriglyceridemia)	Description: Triglycerides are a type of fat found in your blood. High triglycerides usually do not cause symptoms, but very high levels may increase your risk for pancreatic or heart problems over time. Recommendations: • Adopt a diet low in saturated and trans fats, increase fiber intake, and engage in regular physical activity. • Maintain a healthy weight. • Get regular triglyceride tests and inform the care team of any significant changes. • Do not smoke and limit alcohol consumption. Talk to your care team if you have: • Symptoms of heart attack or stroke, such as sudden numbness, weakness, or chest pain
Fatigue	Description: Fatigue is a constant and sometimes strong feeling of tiredness. Recommendations: • 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. Talk to your care team if you have: • 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

Taste Changes	Description: Your sense of taste may change. Foods you used to like may not taste good. Some foods may taste strange or like metal. Recommendations: • Choose foods that look and smell good to you. • If food tastes like metal, try using plastic forks and spoons. • Use herbs, spices, or a little juice to add flavor. • Suck on mints or chew gum to freshen your mouth. • Brush your teeth with a soft toothbrush before and after eating. • Do not smoke. Talk to your care team if you have: • Trouble eating • Weight loss
Mouth Sores or Irritation (Mucositis or Stomatitis)	Description: Treatment can irritate the lining of the mouth. In some cases, this can cause redness, sores, pain, and swelling. Recommendations: • Rinse your mouth after meals and at bedtime; rinse more often if sores develop. • Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush or use a cotton swab after meals. • Use a mild, non-alcohol mouth rinse at least 4 times daily (after meals and at bedtime). Example: 1/8 teaspoon salt + 1/4 teaspoon baking soda in 8 oz warm water. • Avoid acidic, hot, spicy, rough, or crunchy foods and drinks that can irritate your mouth. • Avoid tobacco, alcohol, and alcohol-based mouthwash. • Your care team may prescribe medicines or mouth treatments to help with pain and healing. Talk to your care team if you have: • Painful mouth sores or throat pain • Trouble eating or significant weight loss

Nausea and Vomiting	Description: Nausea is an uncomfortable feeling in your stomach or the need to throw up. You may or may not vomit. Recommendations: • 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. Talk to your care team if you have: • Vomiting for more than 24 hours • Nonstop vomiting • Signs of dehydration (very thirsty, dry mouth, dizziness, or dark urine) • Blood in your vomit or vomit that looks like coffee grounds • Severe stomach pain that does not go away after vomiting
Liver Problems	Description: Treatment can cause liver injury. Your care team may check your liver with blood tests before and during treatment. Talk to your care team if you have: • 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

Low Appetite

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.

Recommendations:

- 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 or 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).

Talk to your care team if you have:

- Unintentional weight loss
- Little or no appetite for several days
- Excessive tiredness or low energy

Diarrhea	Description: Diarrhea is loose, watery stools or more frequent bowel movements than usual. It can cause dehydration and weakness. Recommendations: • 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). Talk to your care team if you have: • 4 or more bowel movements above your usual number in 24 hours • Dizziness or lightheadedness while having diarrhea • Signs of dehydration (very thirsty, dry mouth, dizziness, or dark urine) • Bloody diarrhea
Protein in Your Urine and Kidney Problems	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. Your care team may check your urine for protein before and during treatment. They may adjust or stop your treatment if protein is found. Recommendations: • 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. Talk to your care team if you have: • Decrease in your amount of urine • Blood in your urine • Swelling of your hands, arms, legs, ankles, or feet • Loss of appetite
Hormone Gland Problems	Description: Treatment can change how much hormones your adrenal and thyroid glands make. Your care team will check your hormone levels with blood tests. Talk to your care team if you have: • Headaches that will not go away or unusual headaches • Eye sensitivity to light • Eye problems • Rapid heartbeat • Increased sweating • Extreme tiredness • Weight gain or weight loss • Feeling more hungry or thirsty than usual • Urinating more often than usual • Hair loss • Feeling cold • Constipation • Your voice gets deeper • Dizziness or fainting • Changes in mood or behavior, such as decreased sex drive, irritability, or forgetfulness

High Blood Sugar (Hyperglycemia)	Description: Treatment may cause high blood sugar levels. Your care team may perform blood tests to check for these changes and treat you if needed. Recommendations: • Eat a well-balanced diet. • Limit sugary drinks and foods. • Eat smaller, more frequent meals. • Be physically active for at least 30 minutes most days. • Your care team may ask you to check your blood sugar at home. If you are already doing this, they may ask you to do it more frequently. Talk to your care team if you have: • Frequent urination • Drowsiness • Increased thirst • Loss of appetite • Blurred vision • Fruity smell on your breath • Confusion • Nausea, vomiting, or stomach pain • It becomes harder to control your blood sugar
Hand-Foot Skin Reaction (HFSR)	Description: HFSR causes dryness, thickening, calluses, blisters, or cracking of the skin on the palms of your hands and soles of your feet. HFSR can lead to a loss of fingerprints, which could impact your identification. Recommendations: • Keep hands and feet moisturized with a non-scented moisturizing cream. • Applying urea 10% or 20% cream twice daily to the affected area may be helpful. • Avoid exposure to hot water on the hands and feet in showers or baths, or when doing dishes, as this may dry out the skin. • Avoid tight-fitting shoes or socks. • Avoid excessive rubbing of hands and feet unless applying lotion. • Wear gloves when working with your hands. Talk to your care team if you have: • Painful blisters or calluses on your hands or feet
Hair Color Changes	Description: Treatment may cause changes in hair color. Hair usually returns to normal after treatment, but for some, the change may be permanent. Talk to your care team if you have: • Excessive thinning or loss of hair • Hair color does not return to normal after treatment ends

High Amylase and Lipase Levels in Your Blood	Description: Treatment may cause high levels of amylase and lipase in your blood. This may indicate a problem with your pancreas. Your care team will perform blood tests to check for these changes and will treat you if needed. Talk to your care team if you have: • Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher • Fast heartbeat • Severe stomach-area (abdominal) pain that radiates to the back • Worsening pain after eating • Severe nausea or vomiting • Diarrhea • Yellowing of your skin or the white part of your eyes (jaundice)
Changes in Electrolytes and Other Laboratory Results	Description: Treatment may cause low levels of calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, and phosphate in your blood. It can also cause high levels of lactate dehydrogenase and potassium. Your care team will perform blood tests to check for these changes and will treat you if needed. Talk to your care team if you have: • Tingling or numbness around the mouth, hands, fingers, toes, or feet • New weakness or trouble breathing • Confusion, fainting, lightheadedness, or seizures • Sudden weight gain • Swelling of your arms, hands, legs, or ankles • Extreme fatigue • Chest pain • Muscle spasm, twitches, tremors, weakness, cramps, or bone pain • Nausea, vomiting, or loss of appetite • Seizures • Drowsiness or trouble thinking • Severe headache or nausea/vomiting • Sudden weakness, unsteadiness, or trouble walking • Trouble breathing or shortness of breath • Irregular, fast, or pounding heartbeat, or chest pain • Severe constipation or stomach-area (abdominal) pain • Slurred speech or severe dizziness • Severe fatigue or inability to perform daily activities

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)	- Chest pain or pressure - Swelling or pain in your arms, back, neck, or jaw - Shortness of breath - Numbness or weakness on one side of your body	- Trouble talking - Headache - Vision changes
Heart Problems	- 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	- 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
Severe Bleeding (Hemorrhage)	- 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 - Unusual vaginal bleeding - Nosebleeds that happen often - Bruising - Lightheadedness
A Tear in Your Stomach or Intestinal Wall (Perforation) or an Abnormal Connection Between 2 Parts of Your Body (Fistula)	- Severe pain or tenderness in your stomach area (abdomen) - Swelling of the abdomen - Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher - Chills	- Nausea - Vomiting - Signs of dehydration (very thirsty, dry mouth, dizziness, or dark urine)
Severe Jawbone Problems (Osteonecrosis of the Jaw)	Osteonecrosis of the jaw (ONJ) is a rare but serious condition in which jawbone cells die, sometimes causing the bone to become exposed through the gums and leading to further bone loss because blood cannot reach the exposed area. Your care team may ask you to see your dentist before starting and during treatment. - Jaw swelling or pain - Loose teeth - Mouth sores - Pus-like discharge in your gums and mouth	
Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy Syndrome (PRES)	A neurologic condition called PRES can happen during treatment with cabozantinib. - Severe headache - Confusion - Weakness - Seizures - Blindness or change in vision	

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:
 - Your care team will verify your pregnancy status before treatment.
 - Use an effective method of birth control during treatment and for 4 months after your last dose of cabozantinib.
 - 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 with cabozantinib.
- **Do not breastfeed** during treatment and for 4 months after your last dose of cabozantinib.

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.
- **You should not drink grapefruit juice or eat grapefruit during treatment with cabozantinib.** Grapefruit may increase the amount of cabozantinib in your blood.
- **Wound healing problems.** Wound healing problems have happened in some people who take cabozantinib. Tell your care team if you plan to have any surgery before or during treatment with cabozantinib.
 - You should stop taking cabozantinib at least 3 weeks before planned surgery.
 - Your care team should tell you when you may start taking cabozantinib again after surgery.
- **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

Updated Date: July 24, 2026

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 to gather information and develop this patient education guide. This guide is a summary of the medication, based on information provided by the drug manufacturer and other sources.

This guide does not cover all information available on the possible uses, directions, doses, precautions, warnings, interactions, adverse effects, or risks associated with this medication. It should not be used as a substitute for the advice of a qualified healthcare professional. The provision of this guide is for informational purposes only. It does not constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation, or favoring of this medication by ACCC, HOPA, NCODA, or ONS, who assume no liability for and cannot ensure the accuracy of the information presented. All decisions regarding this medication should be made with the guidance and direction of a qualified healthcare professional.

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