

# Acalabrutinib and Rituximab

**Care Team Contact Information:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pharmacy Contact Information:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Diagnosis:** \_\_\_\_\_

- This treatment is often used for mantle cell lymphoma (MCL).
- 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
Acalabrutinib (uh-Ka-luh-BROO-tih-nib): Calquence (KAL-kwents)	Slows down or stops the growth of cancer cells by blocking a specific protein that helps them survive.	Tablet taken by mouth.
Rituximab (rih-TUK-sih-mab): Rituxan (rih-TUK-sun), Riabni, Ruxience, Truxima	Helps your immune system find and attack cancer cells by targeting a specific protein on their surface.	Infusion into a vein (intravenous (IV) infusion).

**Note:** Your care team may give you rituximab and hyaluronidase (Rituxan Hycela) instead of rituximab. Rituximab and hyaluronidase is given as an injection under the skin (subcutaneous injection) into the stomach area (abdomen) over 5 to 7 minutes.

**Treatment Administration and Schedule:** Treatment is typically repeated every 4 weeks. This length of time is called a “cycle”.

**Cycle 1**

- Rituximab is given weekly for 4 weeks.
- Acalabrutinib is taken 2 times a day.

Treatment Name	Cycle 1, Day																												Next Cycle
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1
<b>Treatment Given at the Hospital or Clinic</b>																													
Rituximab	✓						✓							✓							✓								✓
<b>Treatment Taken at Home</b>																													
Acalabrutinib Morning dose	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Acalabrutinib Evening dose	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

**Cycles 2 to 12**

- Rituximab is given every month (every 4 weeks) on Day 1.
- Acalabrutinib is taken 2 times a day.

Treatment Name	Cycle 2, Day																												Next Cycle
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1
<b>Treatment Given at the Hospital or Clinic</b>																													
Rituximab	✓																												✓
<b>Treatment Taken at Home</b>																													
Acalabrutinib Morning dose	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Acalabrutinib Evening dose	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

**Cycles 13 to 24 (Calendar Not Shown)**

- Rituximab is given every 2 months (every 8 weeks).
- Acalabrutinib is taken 2 times a day.

**Cycle 25 and Beyond (Calendar Not Shown)**

- Acalabrutinib is taken 2 times a day.

Your acalabrutinib dosing instructions:

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- Do not change your dose or stop taking acalabrutinib unless your care team tells you to.
- Your care team may tell you to change your dose, temporarily stop, or completely stop taking acalabrutinib if you develop certain side effects.
- Acalabrutinib comes in 1 tablet strength: 100 mg.
- Take acalabrutinib 2 times a day (about 12 hours apart), around the same times each day.
- Take acalabrutinib with or without food.
- Swallow acalabrutinib tablets whole with a glass of water. Do not chew, crush, dissolve, or cut tablets.
- If you miss a dose of acalabrutinib and it has been less than 3 hours since your usual time, take it as soon as you remember. If it has been more than 3 hours, skip the missed dose. Do not take 2 doses at the same time.
- If you take too much acalabrutinib, call your care team or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

### Storage and Handling of Acalabrutinib

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

**Appointments:** Appointments may include regular check-ups with your care team, treatment appointments, 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 Given at the Clinic or Hospital	Supportive Care Taken at Home
To help prevent infusion-related reactions	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
To help prevent or treat nausea and vomiting	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
To help lower the risk of infections	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Other	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Common Side Effects

Side Effect	Important Information
<p><b>Infusion-Related Reactions (Boxed Warning)</b></p>	<p>Description: Infusion reactions are common with rituximab and can sometimes be severe or life-threatening.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your care team may prescribe medicines before each infusion of rituximab to help decrease your risk for infusion reactions or to help make any infusion reaction less severe.</li> <li>• You may be monitored for infusion reactions during each infusion of rituximab.</li> <li>• Your care team may slow down or stop your infusion or completely stop treatment with rituximab if you have an infusion reaction.</li> </ul> <p>Get medical help right away if you develop any of the following symptoms of infusion reaction during or after an infusion of rituximab:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chills or shaking</li> <li>• Itching, rash, or flushing</li> <li>• Trouble breathing, wheezing, or tongue swelling</li> <li>• Dizziness or feeling faint</li> <li>• Feeling of impending doom</li> <li>• Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher</li> <li>• New or severe pain in your back or neck</li> </ul>
<p>Low White Blood Cell (WBC) Count (Neutropenia) and Increased Risk of Infection</p>	<p>Description: WBCs help protect your body from infections. A low WBC count increases your risk of getting infections.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wash your hands often and bathe regularly.</li> <li>• Avoid crowded places and close contact with people who are sick.</li> <li>• Follow food safety and wound-care advice from your care team.</li> <li>• Your care team may prescribe medicine to help your WBCs recover.</li> </ul> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher</li> <li>• Chills</li> <li>• New or worsening cough or sore throat</li> <li>• Painful urination or signs of a urinary infection</li> <li>• Feeling much more tired than usual</li> <li>• Red, swollen, warm, or painful areas on the skin (possible skin infection)</li> </ul>
<p>Low Platelet Count (Thrombocytopenia)</p>	<p>Description: Platelets help your blood clot and wounds heal. A low platelet count increases your risk of bruising and bleeding.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blow your nose gently and avoid picking it.</li> <li>• Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush and keep good oral hygiene.</li> <li>• Use an electric razor for shaving and a nail file instead of nail clippers.</li> <li>• Avoid over-the-counter medicines that can increase bleeding risk (for example, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like ibuprofen).</li> <li>• Talk with your care team or dentist before medical or dental procedures — you may need to pause treatment.</li> </ul> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A nosebleed lasting more than 5 minutes despite pressure</li> <li>• A cut that continues to bleed</li> <li>• Heavy gum bleeding when brushing or flossing</li> <li>• Sudden or severe headache</li> <li>• Blood in your urine or stool</li> <li>• Blood in your spit after coughing</li> </ul>

<p>Low Red Blood Cell (RBC) Count and Hemoglobin (Hgb) (Anemia)</p>	<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"> <li>• Aim for 7 to 8 hours of sleep each night.</li> <li>• Do not drive, operate heavy machinery, or do other dangerous activities if you are very tired.</li> <li>• Balance activity and rest — stay as active as you can, but rest when needed.</li> <li>• Eat a balanced diet and follow any nutrition or supplement advice from your care team.</li> </ul> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shortness of breath</li> <li>• Dizziness or fainting</li> <li>• Fast or irregular heartbeats</li> <li>• Sudden or severe headache</li> </ul>
<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"> <li>• Routine exercise can help reduce fatigue. Talk with your care team to find the right type and amount of activity for you.</li> <li>• Ask family and friends for help with daily tasks and for emotional support.</li> <li>• Try healthy ways to feel better, such as meditation, journaling, yoga, or guided imagery, to reduce anxiety and improve well-being.</li> <li>• Aim for 7 to 8 hours of sleep each night. Limit daytime naps to help you sleep better at night.</li> <li>• Do not drive, operate heavy machinery, or do other potentially dangerous activities if you are very tired.</li> </ul> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tiredness that affects your daily life or prevents you from doing normal activities</li> <li>• Tiredness that does not get better with rest</li> <li>• Dizziness or weakness along with severe tiredness</li> </ul>
<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"> <li>• Eat smaller, more frequent meals.</li> <li>• Avoid fatty, fried, spicy, or highly sweet foods.</li> <li>• Eat bland foods at room temperature and drink clear liquids.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Your care team may prescribe medicine for these symptoms.</li> </ul> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vomiting for more than 24 hours</li> <li>• Nonstop vomiting</li> <li>• Signs of dehydration (very thirsty, dry mouth, dizziness, or dark urine)</li> <li>• Blood or coffee-ground-like appearance in your vomit</li> <li>• Severe stomach pain that does not go away after vomiting</li> </ul>

<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"> <li>• Keep track of how often you go to the bathroom each day.</li> <li>• Drink 8 to 10 glasses of water or other fluids daily, unless your care team tells you otherwise.</li> <li>• Eat small meals of mild, low-fiber foods (such as bananas, applesauce, potatoes, chicken, rice, and toast).</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Your care team may recommend an antidiarrheal medicine such as loperamide (Imodium).</li> </ul> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 or more bowel movements than normal in 24 hours</li> <li>• Dizziness or lightheadedness while having diarrhea</li> <li>• Signs of dehydration (very thirsty, dry mouth, dizziness, or dark urine)</li> <li>• Bloody diarrhea</li> </ul>
<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"> <li>• Yellowing of your skin or the white part of your eyes (jaundice)</li> <li>• Severe nausea or vomiting</li> <li>• Pain on the right side of your stomach area (abdomen)</li> <li>• Dark, tea-colored urine</li> <li>• Bleeding or bruising more easily than normal</li> </ul>
<p>Headache</p>	<p>Description: Headaches are pain in your head that can vary in intensity, frequency, and location.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep a headache diary to track the frequency, duration, intensity, and triggers of your headaches.</li> <li>• Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water, as dehydration can contribute to headaches.</li> <li>• Apply a cold or warm compress to your forehead or neck to help ease headache pain.</li> <li>• Get adequate sleep (7-8 hours per night) and establish a regular sleep schedule.</li> <li>• Limit caffeine intake.</li> <li>• Your care team may recommend medicine for headaches.</li> </ul> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Severe headache</li> <li>• More frequent headaches</li> <li>• Dizziness or light-headedness</li> <li>• Confusion</li> <li>• Vision changes</li> </ul>

<p>Rash or Itchy Skin</p>	<p>Description: Rash or itchy skin can cause redness, swelling, and a variety of bumps or patches (small red spots, welts, blisters, or scaly dry areas).</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep your skin moisturized with creams or lotions to reduce rash and itchiness; wear loose-fitting clothing.</li> <li>• Avoid perfumes and colognes, as they may worsen rash symptoms.</li> <li>• Limit time spent in heat to prevent worsening symptoms.</li> <li>• Avoid sun exposure, especially between 10 AM and 4 PM, to lower the risk of sunburn.</li> <li>• Wear long-sleeved clothing with ultraviolet (UV) protection and broad-brimmed hats.</li> <li>• Apply broad-spectrum sunscreen (UVA/UVB) with a sun protective factor (SPF) of 30 or higher.</li> <li>• Use lip balm that contains SPF 30 or higher.</li> <li>• Avoid tanning beds.</li> <li>• Your care team may recommend medicines for symptoms.</li> </ul> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rash or itching that continues to worsen</li> </ul>
<p>Changes in Electrolytes and Other Laboratory Results</p>	<p>Description: Treatment may cause increased levels of potassium and phosphate 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"> <li>• New or worsening muscle weakness or numbness</li> <li>• Fast, slow, irregular, or pounding heartbeats</li> <li>• Severe dizziness, fainting, or near-fainting</li> <li>• Shortness of breath or chest pain</li> <li>• Muscle cramps, spasms, or numbness/tingling</li> <li>• Severe itching or new skin changes</li> <li>• Bone or joint pain</li> <li>• Little or no urine output</li> </ul>

Select Rare Side Effects

Side Effect	Talk to Your Care Team if You Have Any of These Signs or Symptoms
<b>Severe Skin and Mouth Reactions (Boxed Warning)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Painful sores or ulcers on your skin, lips, or in your mouth</li> <li>• Blisters</li> <li>• Peeling skin</li> <li>• Rash</li> <li>• Pustules</li> </ul>
<b>Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) Reactivation (Boxed Warning)</b>	<p>Before you start treatment, your care team will do blood tests to check for HBV infection. If you have had hepatitis B or are a carrier of hepatitis B virus, receiving rituximab could cause the virus to become an active infection again. Hepatitis B reactivation may cause serious liver problems, including liver failure and death. You should not receive rituximab if you have active hepatitis B liver disease. Your care team will monitor you for hepatitis B infection during and for several months after you stop receiving rituximab.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worsening tiredness</li> <li>• Yellowing of your skin or white part of your eyes</li> </ul>
<b>Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy (PML) (Boxed Warning)</b>	<p>PML is a rare, serious brain infection caused by a virus that can happen in people who receive rituximab. People with weakened immune systems can get PML. PML can result in death or severe disability. There is no known treatment, prevention, or cure for PML.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confusion</li> <li>• Dizziness or loss of balance</li> <li>• Difficulty walking or talking</li> <li>• Decreased strength or weakness on one side of your body</li> <li>• Vision problems</li> </ul>
<b>Heart Rhythm Problems (Cardiac Arrhythmia)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fast or irregular heartbeat</li> <li>• Dizziness</li> <li>• Feeling faint</li> <li>• Chest discomfort</li> <li>• Shortness of breath</li> </ul>
<b>Kidney Problems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease in your amount of urine</li> <li>• Blood in your urine</li> <li>• Swelling of your ankles</li> <li>• Loss of appetite</li> </ul>
<b>Tumor Lysis Syndrome (TLS)</b>	<p>Tumor lysis happens when cancer cells break apart and flood your bloodstream with chemicals and toxins faster than your body can get rid of them. TLS is a group of conditions that affect your heart, kidneys, and muscles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Severe nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea</li> <li>• Urinating smaller amounts or dark-colored urine</li> <li>• Muscle cramps or twitching</li> <li>• Rapid heartbeats or chest pain</li> <li>• Confusion or weakness</li> <li>• Seizures</li> </ul>
<b>Risk of New Cancers</b>	<p>There is a risk of developing new cancers during or after treatment. Talk with your care team about this risk, and ask about the signs and symptoms of new cancers.</p>

**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, 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 **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, for 1 week after your last dose of acalabrutinib, and for 12 months after your last dose of rituximab.
  - 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.
- **Do NOT breastfeed** during treatment, for 2 weeks after your last dose of acalabrutinib, and for 6 months after your last dose of rituximab.

## 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.
- **Higher risk of bleeding after surgery.** Tell your care team if you plan to have any surgery before starting or during treatment. Your care team may ask you to stop taking acalabrutinib for 3 to 7 days before and after your surgery, depending on the type of surgery and your risk of bleeding.
- **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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