

Medication Information Sheet

SORafenib

 (sor-a-FEN-ib)

This document provides general information about your medication. It does not replace the advice of your health care professional. Always discuss your therapy with your health care professional and refer to the package insert for more details.

Other Name: Nexavar®

Appearance: tablet

What is this medication for?

- For treating certain types of leukemia and cancers which start in the liver, kidney or thyroid

What should I do before I have this medication?

- Tell your doctor and pharmacist if you have/had significant medical condition(s), especially if you have / had high blood pressure, blood clots or blockages of arteries (including stroke), irregular heartbeat, will be undergoing major surgery or dental work, if you are taking blood thinners or if you have any allergies.
- People who have cancer or leukemia are at a higher risk of developing other cancers/leukemias (usually some years later) or blood clots. Some cancer medications may increase these risks, especially if used for a prolonged period of time. You should discuss any concerns with your doctor.

How will this medication affect sex, pregnancy and breastfeeding?

- Sorafenib may harm the unborn baby and should not be used if you are pregnant. If there is ANY chance that you or your partner may become pregnant, you and your partner together must: ► **Use 2 effective forms of birth control at the same time** during treatment and until at least **2 weeks after** stopping treatment. Discuss with your healthcare team.
- Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant.
- Do not breastfeed while taking sorafenib.
- Effects on Fertility: Yes

How is this medication given?

- Swallow whole pill with a glass of water on an empty stomach, at least one hour before or two hours after food or other medications.
- Sorafenib is usually taken by mouth twice a day.

*The most updated version and more symptom control information can be found on: <http://www.cancercare.on.ca/druginfo>

Prepared with input from the Cancer Care Ontario-Medication Information Sheets Working Group.

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What else do I need to know while on this medication?

- Do not eat or drink grapefruit, starfruit, Seville oranges or their juices (or products that contain these) while on this treatment. They may increase side effects.
- This medication can interact with other medications and can result in the treatment not working as well or cause severe side effects.
- Make sure your health care team knows about all your medications (prescription, over-the-counter, herbals and supplements). Check with your health care team before starting or stopping any of them.
- **For mild aches and pain or fever:**
 - If you feel unwell, take your temperature before taking any medications for pain or fever. They may hide a fever.
 - You may take acetaminophen (Tylenol®) tablets. Ask your health care team about the right dose for you.
 - Ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®), naproxen (Aleve®) or aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid, ASA), including low dose aspirin for heart conditions, may increase your chance of bleeding. Talk to your health care team before you start or stop these medications.
 - **Talk to your health care team or go to the closest emergency room right away if you have a fever.** See the [Fever](#) pamphlet for more information.

How should I safely store this medication?

- Keep this medication in the original packaging at room temperature in a dry place, away from heat and light. Keep out of sight and reach of children and pets.
- Do not throw out any unused medications at home. Bring them to your pharmacy to be thrown away safely.

What are the side effects of this medication?

The following side effects are common or severe. You may not have all of the side effects. Other side effects may occur. If you have any unusual or bothersome symptoms, discuss with your doctor.

Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
More Common Side Effects	
Salt imbalances (muscle twitching, severe weakness or cramping, confusion, irregular heartbeat)	Get emergency medical help right

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Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
More Common Side Effects	
	away
<p><i>Unusual bleeding or bruising</i></p> <p>You may have black stools, cough up blood, blood in your urine, purple or red dots on your skin or bleeding that will not stop.</p> <p><i>Fever, chills, infection</i></p> <p>You have a fever if your temperature taken in your mouth (oral temperature) is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38.3°C (100.9°F) or higher at any time OR • 38.0°C (100.4°F) or higher for at least one hour. <p>While you are getting chemotherapy treatments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep a digital thermometer at home and take your temperature if you feel hot or unwell (for example, chills). • Avoid taking medications that treat a fever before you take your temperature (for example, Tylenol®, acetaminophen, Advil® or ibuprofen) as they may hide a fever. • Do not eat or drink anything hot or cold right before taking your temperature. • Wash your hands often. • Check with your doctor before getting any vaccines, surgeries or visiting your dentist. <p>If you have a fever, talk to your health care team or go to the closest emergency room.</p> <p>See our Neutropenia (Low white blood cell count) pamphlet for more information.</p>	<p>Get emergency medical help right away</p>
<p><i>Diarrhea</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May occur days to weeks after the drug is given / after treatment starts. • Take anti-diarrhea drug(s) if given to you by your doctor. • Drink plenty of clear fluids. Limit hot, spicy, fried foods, foods/drinks with caffeine (coffee, tea or cola), orange or prune juice. Try a low-fiber BRAT diet (Bananas, white Rice, Apple sauce, Toast made with white bread). • Also see Diarrhea pamphlet.* 	<p>Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe</p>
<p><i>Abnormal levels of pancreas tests (lipase, amylase)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your doctor may monitor these regularly. 	<p>Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe</p>

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More Common Side Effects	
<p><i>Rash; dry, itchy skin (may be severe)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be severe, including blisters or skin peeling; get emergency medical help right away if this occurs. • Stay out of the sun; wear sunblock, a hat and cover exposed skin. • Use daily moisturizer. 	<p>Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe</p>
<p><i>Tiredness</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rest often; take naps if needed. Move slowly when getting up. • Eat well-balanced meals and drink plenty of fluids. Light exercise may help. • If you are feeling tired, avoid driving or operating machinery 	<p>Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe</p>
<p><i>Abnormal liver lab tests (may be severe)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your doctor will monitor these regularly. Call your doctor if you have yellowish skin or eyes, or unusually dark urine. 	<p>Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe</p>
<p><i>Hand-foot syndrome (pain, thinning or reddening palms or feet, including tingling, numbness, peeling)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May occur in days to weeks after the dose is given/ after starting treatment. • Avoid activities that cause rubbing, pressure or heat exposure to hands and feet (i.e. gripping tools, vigorous washing, hot baths). • Apply moisturizer liberally and often to your hands and feet, especially in the folds of the skin. • Wear loose, comfortable footwear and clothes. • Rest and try to keep off your feet. • Also see Hand-Foot Syndrome pamphlet.* 	<p>Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe</p>
<p><i>Hair thinning or loss</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a gentle soft brush; care should be taken with hair sprays, bleaches, dyes and perms. • Your hair usually grows back after your treatment ends, but the texture or colour may be different. 	
<p><i>Nausea and vomiting (generally mild)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May occur in hours to days after the dose is given/ after treatment starts. • Take anti-nausea drug(s) exactly as directed by your doctor. It is easier to prevent nausea than to treat it. 	<p>Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe</p>

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More Common Side Effects	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact your doctor if nausea lasts more than 48 hours or vomiting for more than 24 hours. • Drink clear fluids and avoid large meals. Get fresh air and rest. • Limit spicy, fried foods or foods with a strong smell. • Also see Nausea & Vomiting pamphlet.* 	
<p><i>High blood pressure (may be severe)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check your blood pressure regularly; medication to treat high blood pressure may be needed. 	Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe
<p><i>Poor Appetite; don't feel like eating; weight loss</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eat foods that you like and try to eat regular small meals. • Use meal supplements if possible. See a dietitian. 	Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe
<p><i>Cough; Feeling short of breath</i></p>	Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe
<p><i>Tingling, numb fingers and toes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact your doctor or nurse if you have trouble doing up buttons, writing, picking up small objects, have pain or trouble with movement. • May slowly return to normal after treatment ends. 	Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe
<p><i>Pains or cramps in the belly</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat constipation or diarrhea. • May be due to other causes; check with your doctor or nurse if pain is severe, does not go away or worsens. 	Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe
<p><i>Mouth sores</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain good mouth hygiene. Regular teeth brushing with a soft toothbrush or Toothette®, and regular use of alcohol-free mouthwashes. • Instead, try a homemade mouthwash: Mix 1 teaspoonful of baking soda and 1 teaspoonful of salt in 4 cups (1L) of water. • Avoid hot, spicy, acidic, hard or crunchy foods. • Check with your doctor or nurse as soon as you notice sores in mouth/lips or pain with swallowing. Your doctor may prescribe a prescription mouthwash to relieve mouth sores and prevent infection. • Also see Mouth Care pamphlet.* 	Contact your health care team as soon as possible

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Less Common Side Effects, but may be Severe	
<p>Gall bladder problems (severe pain and tenderness in the upper right belly, pain may spread to your right shoulder or back, nausea, vomiting, yellowing of skin or eyes)</p>	Get emergency medical help right away
<p>Changes in thyroid activity (not usually severe)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May occur in weeks to months after the dose is given/after treatment starts. • Your doctor may monitor your thyroid function regularly. • Underactive thyroid (more common): Look for unusual weight gain with some of the following: Feeling tired or having no energy, dry skin, brittle nails or hair, cannot tolerate coldness • Overactive thyroid: Look for unusual weight loss with some of the following: Increased sweating and/or appetite, feeling irritable or overactive, rapid or irregular heartbeats 	Contact your health care team as soon as possible
<p>Blockage of an artery (blood vessel) in your heart, brain, chest, belly, or limbs; this may result in stroke (sudden loss of vision, speech, or the use of your limb(s)) or heart attack (chest pain, shortness of breath), or pain in chest, belly or limb</p>	Get emergency medical help right away
<p>Heart problems (irregular heartbeat, chest pain, fainting, swelling in legs/ankles/belly, shortness of breath)</p>	Get emergency medical help right away
<p>Allergic reaction (fever, severe rash, itchiness, swollen face, lip or tongue, chest or throat tightness; may occur during or shortly after the drug is given)</p>	Get emergency medical help right away
<p>Pancreas problems (increased pain in centre of belly and may extend to the back, appetite or weight loss)</p>	Get emergency medical help right away
<p>Hole in stomach or intestine wall (sudden, severe pain in belly or stomach area)</p>	Get emergency medical help right away
<p>Teeth, mouth or jaw pain, swelling, poor healing or unusual discharge from gums, loosening of teeth, feeling numbness or heaviness in the jaw</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain good oral hygiene with regular brushing and use of alcohol-free mouthwashes. • Any necessary dental work should be done before treatment with this drug • Avoid dental surgeries (except regular dental cleaning) during treatment. Check with your doctor before having any dental work. • Ensure dentures fit properly and remove them at night. 	Contact your health care team as soon as possible

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Less Common Side Effects, but may be Severe	
Lung problems (increased cough, breathing problems, chest pain, coughing blood)	Get emergency medical help right away
Kidney problems (lower back pain, body swelling, passing little or no urine, or recent unusual weight gain)	Get emergency medical help right away
Breakdown of muscle cells, may lead to kidney problems (severe muscle pain or weakness, dark urine)	Get emergency medical help right away
Effects on the brain, may be related to high blood pressure (severe headache, fainting, seizures, confusion, vision loss)	Get emergency medical help right away
Inflammation of blood vessels in the brain, kidney or skin	Contact your health care team as soon as possible
Blood clot (limb pain or swelling, hardened vein in limb), may occur in lungs (sudden start of coughing, breathing problems, chest pain, coughing blood)	Get emergency medical help right away

For more links on how to manage your symptoms go to www.cancercareontario.ca/symptoms.

The information set out in the medication information sheets, regimen information sheets, and symptom management information (for patients) contained in the Drug Formulary (the "Formulary") is intended to be used by health professionals and patients for informational purposes only. The information is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, drug interactions or side effects of a certain drug, nor should it be used to indicate that use of a particular drug is safe, appropriate or effective for a given condition.

A patient should always consult a healthcare provider if he/she has any questions regarding the information set out in the Formulary. The information in the Formulary is not intended to act as or replace medical advice and should not be relied upon in any such regard. All uses of the Formulary are subject to clinical judgment and actual prescribing patterns may not follow the information provided in the Formulary.