



Provincial Health Services Authority

**For the Patient: Acalabrutinib**  
Other names: CALQUENCE®

- **Acalabrutinib** (a kal" a broo' ti nib) is a drug that is used to treat some types of cancer. It is a capsule that you take by mouth.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to acalabrutinib before taking acalabrutinib.
- **Blood tests** may be taken regularly during treatment. The dose and timing of your treatment may be changed based on the test results and/or other side effects.
- It is important to **take** acalabrutinib exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the directions. Acalabrutinib is usually taken twice daily, about 12 hours apart.
- You may **take** acalabrutinib with food or on an empty stomach. Do **not** take acalabrutinib at the same time as acidic beverages, such as orange juice or grapefruit juice.
- If you **miss a dose** of acalabrutinib, take it as soon as you can if it is within 3 hours of the missed dose. If it is more than 3 hours since your missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times. Do **NOT** take a double dose to make up for the missed dose.
- If you **vomit** the dose of acalabrutinib, do not take a second dose. Skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times. Call your doctor during office hours for advice as a medication to prevent nausea may be required for future doses.
- Other drugs such as itraconazole (SPORANOX®) and rifampin (RIFADIN®) may **interact** with acalabrutinib. Tell your doctor if you are taking these or any other drugs as you may need extra blood tests or your dose may need to be changed. Check with your doctor or pharmacist for further instructions if you are taking drugs to reduce stomach acid such as omeprazole (LOSEC®), ranitidine (ZANTAC®), or calcium carbonate (TUMS®). Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start or stop taking any other drugs.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of acalabrutinib.
- Acalabrutinib may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with acalabrutinib and for 1 week after your last dose.

Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breastfeed during treatment and for 2 weeks after your last dose.

- **Store** acalabrutinib capsules out of the reach of children, at room temperature, away from heat, light, and moisture.
- **Tell** doctors, dentists, and other health professionals that you are being treated with acalabrutinib before you receive any treatment from them.
- If you are planning to have **surgery**, you may need to stop taking acalabrutinib 3 to 7 days *before* your surgery and then restart it 3 to 7 days *after* your surgery. This will help lower your risk of bleeding. Check with your doctor before stopping or restarting acalabrutinib.

### Changes in blood counts

Acalabrutinib may cause temporary changes in your blood counts. Your doctor will be following these changes carefully by performing blood tests. Adjustment of your treatment may be needed in certain circumstances.

BLOOD COUNTS	MANAGEMENT
<p>Normal white blood cells protect your body by fighting bacteria (germs) that cause infection. <b>When they are low, you are at greater risk of having an infection.</b></p>	<p>To help prevent infection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wash your hands often and always after using the bathroom.</li> <li>• Avoid crowds and people who are sick.</li> <li>• Call your doctor <b>immediately</b> at the first sign of an infection such as fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer), chills, cough, or burning when you pass urine.</li> </ul>
<p>Normal platelets help your blood to clot normally after an injury (e.g., cut). <b>When the platelet count is low, you may be more likely to bruise or bleed.</b></p>	<p>To help prevent bleeding problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try not to bruise, cut, or burn yourself.</li> <li>• Clean your nose by blowing gently. Do not pick your nose.</li> <li>• Avoid constipation.</li> <li>• Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush as your gums may bleed more easily.</li> </ul> <p>Some medications such as ASA (e.g., ASPIRIN®) or ibuprofen (e.g., ADVIL®) may increase your risk of bleeding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not stop taking any medication that has been prescribed by your doctor (e.g., <b>ASA for your heart</b>).</li> <li>• For minor pain, try acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®).</li> </ul>

Side effects are listed in the following table in the order in which they may occur. Tips to help manage the side effects are included.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<b>Nausea</b> and <b>vomiting</b> may sometimes occur. Most people have little or no nausea.	You may be given a prescription for anti-nausea drug(s) to take at home. <b>It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred</b> , so follow directions closely. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids.</li> <li>• Eat and drink often in small amounts.</li> <li>• Try the ideas in <i>Practical Tips to Manage Nausea</i>.*</li> </ul>
<b>Skin rashes</b> may sometimes occur.	If redness or itching is very irritating, call your doctor. Otherwise, be sure to mention it at your next visit.
<b>Fever</b> may sometimes occur.	Fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer) may be a sign of an infection. Report this to your doctor <b>immediately</b> .
<b>Diarrhea</b> may sometimes occur.	If diarrhea is a problem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids.</li> <li>• Eat and drink often in small amounts.</li> <li>• Avoid high fibre foods as outlined in <i>Food Choices to Help Manage Diarrhea</i>.*</li> </ul>
<b>Constipation</b> may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exercise if you can.</li> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids.</li> <li>• Try ideas in <i>Food Choices to Manage Constipation</i>.*</li> </ul>
<b>Headache</b> may sometimes occur.	Take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours if needed, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day.
<b>Muscle</b> or <b>joint pain</b> may sometimes occur.	You may take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day for mild to moderate pain. Tell your doctor if the pain interferes with your activity.
<b>Tiredness</b> and lack of energy may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you are feeling tired.</li> <li>• Try the ideas in <i>Fatigue/Tiredness – Patient Handout</i>.*</li> </ul>

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
A type of <b>skin cancer</b> may rarely occur.	Check your skin and tell your doctor right away if you notice any skin changes including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a new wart,</li> <li>• a sore or reddish bump that bleeds or does not heal, or</li> <li>• a change in size or color of a mole.</li> </ul> Refer to the <i>BC Health Guide</i> for information about protecting your skin from sun exposure.
<b>Hair loss</b> does not occur with acalabrutinib.	

**\*Please ask your chemotherapy nurse or pharmacist for a copy.**

**STOP TAKING ACALABRUTINIB AND SEE YOUR DOCTOR OR GET EMERGENCY HELP IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE:**

- Signs of an **infection** such as fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer), shaking, chills; severe sore throat, productive cough (coughing up thick or green sputum); pain or burning when urinating, cloudy or foul smelling urine; painful, tender, or swollen red skin wounds or sores.
- Signs of **bleeding problems** such as black, tarry stools; blood in urine; pinpoint red spots on skin; extensive bruising.
- Signs of **heart problems** such as fast or uneven heartbeat, chest pain, dizziness, shortness of breath or fainting.

**SEE YOUR DOCTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (DURING OFFICE HOURS) IF YOU HAVE:**

- Signs of **anemia** such as unusual tiredness or weakness.
- Signs of **liver problems** such as yellow eyes or skin, white or clay-coloured stools.
- Signs of **gout** such as joint pain.

**CHECK WITH YOUR DOCTOR IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONTINUE OR BOTHER YOU:**

- Redness, swelling, pain, or sores on your lips, tongue, mouth, or throat.
- Blurred vision or watery eyes.
- Abdominal pain.
- Muscle spasms.
- Loss of appetite.
- Trouble sleeping.
- Swelling of hands, feet or lower legs.
- Unusual forgetfulness.
- Numbness or tingling of the fingers or toes.

