



Provincial Health Services Authority

For the Patient: Crizotinib
Other names: XALKORI®

- **Crizotinib** (kriz oh' 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 crizotinib before taking crizotinib.
- **Blood tests** may be taken regularly during treatment. The dose and timing of your chemotherapy may be changed based on the test results and/or other side effects.
- It is important to **take** crizotinib exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the directions.
- You may **take** crizotinib with food or on an empty stomach.
- If you **miss a dose** of crizotinib, take it as soon as you can if it is within six hours of the missed dose. If it is more than six hours since your missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times. Do not take any doses to make up for the missed dose.
- If you **vomit** the dose of crizotinib within 30 minutes of taking it, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times. Do not take any doses to make up for the missed dose. Call your doctor during office hours for advice as a medication to prevent nausea may be required for future doses.
- Other drugs such as ketoconazole (NIZORAL®) and rifampin (RIFADIN®) may **interact** with crizotinib. 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 before you start or stop taking any other drugs or natural health products.
- **Avoid grapefruit and grapefruit juice** for the duration of your treatment, as these may interact with crizotinib.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of crizotinib.
- Crizotinib may cause **sterility** in men and **menopause** in women. If you plan to have children, discuss this with your doctor before being treated with crizotinib.

- Crizotinib may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with crizotinib and for 3 months after stopping treatment. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breastfeed during treatment.
- **Store** crizotinib 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 crizotinib before you receive any treatment from them.

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
Nausea and vomiting may occur after your treatment. Most people have little or no nausea.	You may be given a prescription for antinausea drug(s) to take before your chemotherapy treatment and/or at home. It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred , so follow directions closely. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink plenty of fluids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts. • Try the ideas in Practical Tips to Manage Nausea.*
Diarrhea commonly occurs.	If diarrhea is a problem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink plenty of fluids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts. • Avoid high fibre foods as outlined in Food Choices to Help Manage Diarrhea.*
Constipation may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise if you can. • Drink plenty of fluids. • Try ideas in Food Choices to Manage Constipation.*

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p>Normal white blood cells protect your body by fighting bacteria (germs) that cause infection. When they are low, you are at greater risk of having an infection.</p>	<p>To help prevent infection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash your hands often and always after using the bathroom. • Avoid crowds and people who are sick. • Stop taking crizotinib and call your doctor immediately 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.
<p>Normal platelets help your blood to clot normally after an injury (e.g., cut). When the platelet count is low, you may be more likely to bruise or bleed.</p>	<p>To help prevent bleeding problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try not to bruise, cut, or burn yourself. • Clean your nose by blowing gently. Do not pick your nose. • Avoid constipation. • Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush as your gums may bleed more easily. Maintain good oral hygiene. <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"> • Do not stop taking any medication that has been prescribed by your doctor (e.g., ASA for your heart). • For minor pain, try acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) first, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day, but occasional use of ibuprofen may be acceptable.
<p>Swelling of hands, feet, or lower legs may sometimes occur if your body retains extra fluid.</p>	<p>If swelling is a problem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevate your feet when sitting. • Avoid tight clothing.
<p>Taste alteration may sometimes occur.</p>	<p>Try the ideas in <i>Food Ideas to Cope with Taste and Smell Changes</i>.*</p>
<p>Loss of appetite may sometimes occur.</p>	<p>Try the ideas in <i>Food Ideas to Help with Decreased Appetite</i>.*</p>
<p>Tiredness and lack of energy may sometimes occur.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you are feeling tired. • Try the ideas in <i>Fatigue/Tiredness – Patient Handout</i> OR <i>Your Bank to Energy Savings: Helping People with Cancer Handle Fatigue</i>.*

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Hair loss is rare with crizotinib. If you lose hair, it will grow back once you stop treatment with crizotinib. Colour and texture may change.	If hair loss is a problem, refer to Resources for Hair Loss and Appearance Changes – Patient Handout .*
Your skin may sunburn more easily than usual.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to <i>Your Medication Sun Sensitivity and Sunscreens*</i> or the <i>BC Health Guide</i> for more information. • After sun exposure, if you have a severe sunburn or skin reaction such as itching, rash, or swelling, contact your doctor.
Numbness or tingling of the fingers or toes may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be careful when handling items that are sharp, hot, or cold. • Tell your doctor at your next visit, especially if you have trouble with buttons, writing, or picking up small objects.
Eye problems , such as blurry or double vision, or flashes of light commonly occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use caution when driving or operating machinery. • Tell your doctor at your next visit, especially if the changes do not go away or get worse.
Slow or abnormal heart rhythm (QT prolongation) rarely occurs.	<p>Minimize your risk of abnormal heart rhythm by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • always checking with your pharmacist and doctor about drug interactions when starting a new medication, herbal product, or supplement. • avoiding grapefruit and grapefruit juice. <p>Tell your doctor immediately or get emergency help if your heart is beating irregularly or fast, or if you feel faint, lightheaded, or dizzy.</p>

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

