



Provincial Health Services Authority

For the Patient: Fruquintinib
Other names: FRUZAQLA®

- **Fruquintinib** (froo-KWIN-tih-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 fruquintinib, before taking fruquintinib.
- **Blood tests, urine tests, and blood pressure measurements** 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** fruquintinib exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the directions.
- You may **take** fruquintinib with food or on an empty stomach. Try to take it about the same time each day.
- If you **miss a dose** of fruquintinib, take it as soon as you can if it is within 12 hours of the missed dose. If it is more than 12 hours since your missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times. Do not take more than one dose to make up for the missed dose. Be sure to mention it to your healthcare team at your next visit.
- If you **vomit** the dose of fruquintinib, do not take a second dose. Skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times. If vomiting continues, call your healthcare team during office hours for advice. Be sure to mention it to your healthcare team at your next visit.
- Other drugs such as rifampin (RIFADIN®) may **interact** with fruquintinib. Tell your doctor if you are taking this 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.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of fruquintinib.
- Fruquintinib may decrease **fertility** in women. If you plan to have children, discuss this with your doctor before being treated with fruquintinib.

- Fruquintinib may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with fruquintinib and for 2 weeks after your treatment has ended. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breastfeed during treatment and for 2 weeks after your treatment has ended.
- **Store** fruquintinib capsules out of the reach of children, at room temperature, away from heat, light, and moisture.
- **Tell** your doctor, dentist, and other health professionals that you are being treated with fruquintinib before you receive any treatment from them.
- If you are planning to have **surgery**, you should stop fruquintinib 2 weeks before surgery and not restart fruquintinib until 2 weeks after surgery and only if the surgical wound is fully healed. This helps to lower the risk of bleeding and may prevent problems with wound healing after surgery.

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 does not usually occur with fruquintinib.	
Diarrhea may sometimes occur. If you have diarrhea and it is not controlled, you can quickly become dehydrated.	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 <i>Food Choices to Help Manage Diarrhea</i>.* Tell your healthcare team if you have diarrhea for more than 24 hours.
High blood pressure commonly occurs. This can happen very quickly after starting treatment.	Your blood pressure will be checked by your healthcare team during your visit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may be asked to check your blood pressure frequently between visits. Your doctor may give you medication if your blood pressure is high. Tell your doctor if you are already on blood pressure medication. Your doctor may have to adjust your dose.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p>Sore mouth may sometimes occur. Mouth sores can occur on the tongue, the sides of the mouth, or in the throat. Mouth sores or bleeding gums can lead to an infection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brush your teeth gently after eating and at bedtime with a very soft toothbrush. If your gums bleed, use gauze instead of a brush. Use baking soda instead of toothpaste. • Make a mouthwash with ¼ teaspoon baking soda AND ¼ teaspoon salt in 1 cup warm water and rinse several times a day. • Try the ideas in <i>Food Ideas to Try with a Sore Mouth</i>.*
<p>Hand-foot skin reaction may sometimes occur during fruquintinib treatment. The palms of your hands and soles of your feet may tingle, become red, numb, painful, or swollen. Skin may also become dry or itchy. You may not be able to do your normal daily activities if blisters, severe pain, or ulcers occur.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid tight-fitting shoes or rubbing pressure to hands and feet, such as that caused by heavy activity. • Avoid tight-fitting jewellery. • Clean hands and feet with lukewarm water and gently pat to dry; avoid hot water. • Apply lanolin-containing creams (e.g., BAG BALM®, UDDERLY SMOOTH®) to hands and feet, liberally and often. <p>Tell your healthcare team at your next visit if you have any signs of hand-foot skin reaction as your dose may need to be changed.</p>
<p>Your white blood cells may decrease while on fruquintinib. 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. <p>Stop taking fruquintinib and call your healthcare team immediately at the first sign of an infection such as fever (over 38°C or 100°F by an oral thermometer), chills, cough, or burning when you pass urine.</p>

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Your platelets may decrease while on fruquintinib. Platelets help to make your blood clot when you hurt yourself. You may bruise or bleed more easily than usual.	<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®), to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day.
Minor bleeding, such as nosebleeds , may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sit up straight and tip your head slightly forward. Tilting your head back may cause blood to run down your throat. • Pinch your nostrils shut between your thumb and forefinger or apply firm pressure against the bleeding nostril for 10 full minutes. • After 10 minutes, check to see if your nose is still bleeding. If it is, hold it for 10 more minutes. • Stay quiet for a few hours and do not blow your nose for at least 12 hours after the bleeding has stopped. • Get emergency help if a nosebleed lasts longer than 20 minutes.
Muscle or joint pain may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day.
Sugar control may sometimes be affected in patients with diabetes.	Check your blood sugar regularly if you have diabetes.
Loss of appetite and weight loss may sometimes occur.	Try the ideas in <i>Food Ideas to Help with Decreased Appetite</i> .*

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Tiredness and lack of energy may sometimes occur.	<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>.*
Blood clots may rarely occur. This is more likely to happen if you have had blood clots before. Signs to watch for include tenderness or hardness over a vein, calf tenderness, sudden onset of cough, chest pain, or shortness of breath.	<p>To help prevent blood clots:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep active. Drink plenty of fluids. Avoid tight clothing. Do not sit with your legs crossed at the knees. <p>Get emergency help immediately if you have signs of a blood clot.</p>
Increase in cholesterol or triglycerides (one of the types of fat in the blood) may sometimes occur.	<p>Tell your doctor if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A history of heart disease. High blood pressure. High cholesterol or triglycerides. <p>You may need to have your cholesterol level checked a few months after starting fruquintinib.</p>
Hair loss does not occur with fruquintinib.	

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

STOP TAKING FRUQUINTINIB AND CHECK WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE TEAM OR GET EMERGENCY HELP IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE:

- Signs of **bleeding problems** such as black, tarry stools; blood in urine; pinpoint red spots on skin; extensive bruising.
- Signs of a **stroke** such as sudden onset of severe headache, eyesight changes, slurred speech, loss of coordination, weakness or numbness in arm or leg.
- Signs of a **blood clot** such as tenderness or hardness over a vein, calf swelling and tenderness, sudden onset of cough, chest pain, or shortness of breath.
- Signs of an **infection** such as fever (over 38°C or 100°F by an oral thermometer), shaking chills; severe sore throat, productive cough (coughing up thick or green sputum); cloudy or foul smelling urine; painful, tender, or swollen red skin wounds or sores
- Severe **headache** that does not go away, or occurs with vomiting, confusion, seizures, or changes in eyesight.
- Sudden **abdominal pain** or tenderness.

