

Crizotinib (Xalkori)

About This Medicine

Crizotinib is used to treat cancer. It is given orally (by mouth).

Possible Side Effects

- Blurred vision, double vision and other changes in eyesight
- Soreness of the mouth and throat. You may have red areas, white patches, or sores that hurt.
- Nausea and vomiting (throwing up)
- Diarrhea (loose bowel movements)
- Constipation (not able to move bowels)
- Pain in your abdomen
- Swelling of the hands, feet, or any other part of the body
- Fever
- Tiredness
- Changes in your liver function
- Decreased appetite (decreased hunger)
- Feeling dizzy
- Headache
- Bone and muscle pain
- Effects on the nerves are called peripheral neuropathy. You may feel numbness, tingling, or pain in your hands and feet. It may be hard for you to button your clothes, open jars, or walk as usual. The effect on the nerves may get worse with more doses of the medicine. These effects get better in some people after the medicine is stopped but it does not get better in all people.
- Upper respiratory tract infection
- Cough
- Itching

Note: Each of the side effects above was reported in 25% or greater of patients treated with crizotinib. All possible side effects are not included. Your side effects may be different depending on your cancer diagnosis, condition, or if you are receiving other medicines in combination. Please discuss any concerns or questions with your medical team.

Warnings and Precautions



- Severe changes in your liver function, which can cause liver failure and be life-threatening.
- Inflammation (swelling) and/or scarring of the lungs, which can very rarely be life-threatening. You may have a cough or trouble breathing.
- Abnormal electrocardiogram (EKG/ECG) and/or decreased heart rate
- Partial loss of eyesight in one or both eyes
- Severe nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and soreness of the mouth and throat in patients with systemic anaplastic large cell lymphoma (ALCL).

Note: Some of the side effects above are very rare. If you have concerns and/or questions, please discuss them with your medical team.

Important Information

- This medicine may cause blurred vision or other changes in eyesight, dizziness, or tiredness that may impair your ability to drive or use machinery. Use caution and talk to your doctor and/or nurse about any precautions you may need to take.
- Sensitivity to sunlight/light. You may get a skin rash/reaction if you are in the sun or are exposed to sun lamps and tanning beds.

How to Take Your Medicine

- **Capsules:** Swallow capsules whole with or without food. Do not chew, crush, or split capsules.
- **Pellets:** Swallow the pellets without the shell, with or without food. Do not crush or chew pellets. You can open the shell and empty the contents directly into the patient's mouth. You can also use a medicine cup or a spoon. Make sure you drink enough water afterward to ensure you have taken all of your medicine.
- **Missed dose:** If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you think about it. If it is within 6 hours of your next dose, then skip the missed dose and take your next dose at the regular time.
- If you vomit a dose, take your next dose at the regular time. Do not take 2 doses at the same time and do not double up on the next dose.
- **Handling:** Wash your hands with soap and water, before and after handling your medicine. Your caretakers should not handle your medicine with bare hands and should wear latex gloves.
- Cytotoxic medicines leave the body through urine and stool, but they can also be present in other body fluids such as blood, vomit, semen, and vaginal fluids. Take precautions to prevent others from coming in contact with your medicine or your body fluids. Follow safety precautions during your treatment and for as long as directed by your health care provider after your treatment. If you take a cytotoxic pill each day, follow these precautions every day.
- **Storage:** Store this medicine in the original container at room temperature.
- **Disposal of unused medicine:** Do not flush any expired and/or unused medicine down the toilet or drain unless you are specifically instructed to do so on the medicine label. Some facilities have take-back programs and/or other options. If you do not have a take-back program in your area, then please discuss with your nurse or your doctor how to dispose of unused medicine.



Treating Side Effects

- Drink enough fluids to keep your urine pale yellow.
- If you throw up or have diarrhea, you should drink more fluids so that you do not become dehydrated (lack of water in the body from losing too much fluid).
- If you have diarrhea, eat low-fiber foods that are high in protein and calories and avoid foods that can irritate your digestive tracts or lead to cramping.
- If you are not able to move your bowels, check with your doctor or nurse before you use enemas, laxatives, or suppositories.
- Ask your nurse or doctor about medicine that can lessen or stop your diarrhea or constipation.
- To help with nausea and vomiting, eat small, frequent meals instead of three large meals a day. Choose foods and drinks that are at room temperature. Ask your nurse or doctor about other helpful tips and medicine that is available to help stop or lessen these symptoms.
- Mouth care is very important. Your mouth care should consist of routine, gentle cleaning of your teeth or dentures and rinsing your mouth with a mixture of 1/2 teaspoon of salt in 8 ounces of water or 1/2 teaspoon of baking soda in 8 ounces of water. This should be done at least after each meal and at bedtime.
- If you have mouth sores, avoid mouthwash that has alcohol. Also avoid alcohol and smoking because they can bother your mouth and throat.
- To help with decreased appetite, eat foods high in calories and protein, such as meat, poultry, fish, dry beans, tofu, eggs, nuts, milk, yogurt, cheese, ice cream, pudding, and nutritional supplements.
- Consider using sauces and spices to increase taste. Daily exercise, with your doctor's approval, may increase your appetite.
- Manage tiredness by pacing your activities for the day. Be sure to include periods of rest between energy-draining activities.
- If you are dizzy, get up slowly after sitting or lying.
- Get regular exercise, with your doctor's approval. If you feel too tired to exercise vigorously, try taking a short walk.
- If you have numbness and tingling in your hands and feet, be careful when cooking, walking, and handling sharp objects and hot liquids.
- Keeping your pain under control is important to your well-being. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you are experiencing pain.
- To help with itching, moisturize your skin several times a day.
- Use sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher when you are outdoors even for a short time. Cover up when you are out in the sun. Wear wide-brimmed hats, long-sleeved shirts, and pants. Keep your neck, chest, and back covered.
- If you get a rash do not put anything on it unless your doctor or nurse says you may. Keep the area around the rash clean and dry. Ask your doctor for medicine if your rash bothers you.

Food and Medicine Interactions

- Avoid grapefruit or grapefruit juice while taking this medicine as it may raise the levels of crizotinib in your body which could make side effects worse.
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist about all other prescription medicines and over-the-counter medicines and dietary supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbs, and others) you are taking before



starting this medicine as there are known medicine interactions with crizotinib. Also, check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new prescription or over-the-counter medicines, or dietary supplements to make sure that there are no interactions.

- This medicine may interact with St. John's Wort and may lower the levels of the medicine in your body, which can make it less effective.

When to Call the Doctor

Call your doctor or nurse if you have any of these symptoms and/or any new or unusual symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher
- Chills
- Blurred and/or double vision or other changes in eyesight
- Flashes of light or floaters in your field of vision
- Develop sensitivity to sunlight/light
- Headache that does not go away
- Tiredness and/or weakness that interferes with your daily activities
- Feeling that your heart is beating in a fast or not normal way (palpitations)
- Feeling dizzy or lightheaded
- Wheezing and/or trouble breathing
- Coughing up yellow, green, or bloody mucus
- Dry cough and/or a cough that is bothersome
- Pain in your chest
- Pain in your abdomen that does not go away
- Pain in your mouth or throat that makes it hard to eat or drink
- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking and/or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Throwing up more than 3 times a day
- Lasting loss of appetite or rapid weight loss of five pounds in a week
- Diarrhea, 4 times in one day or diarrhea with lack of strength or a feeling of being dizzy
- No bowel movement in 3 days or when you feel uncomfortable
- Weight gain of 5 pounds in one week (fluid retention)
- Swelling of the hands, feet, or any other part of the body
- Numbness, tingling, or pain in your hands and feet
- A new rash or a rash that is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Itching that is bothersome
- Pain that does not go away, or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Signs of possible liver problems: dark urine, pale bowel movements, pain in your abdomen, feeling very tired and weak, unusual itching, or yellowing of the eyes or skin
- If you think you may be pregnant or may have impregnated your partner

Reproduction Warnings



- **Pregnancy warning:** This medicine can have harmful effects on the unborn baby. Women of childbearing potential should use effective methods of birth control during your cancer treatment and for at least 45 days after stopping treatment. Men with female partners of childbearing potential should use condoms during your cancer treatment and for at least 90 days after stopping treatment. Let your doctor know right away if you think you may be pregnant or may have impregnated your partner.
- **Breastfeeding warning:** Women should not breastfeed during treatment and for 45 days after stopping treatment because this medicine could enter the breast milk and cause harm to a breastfeeding baby.
- **Fertility warning:** In men and women both, this medicine may affect your ability to have children in the future. Talk with your doctor or nurse if you plan to have children. Ask for information on sperm or egg banking.

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