

ORAL CHEMOTHERAPY EDUCATION



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CRIZOTINIB

Name of your medication

Generic name – crizotinib (krih-ZOH-tih-nib)
Brand Name – Xalkori® (ZAL-kor-ee)

Common uses

Crizotinib is used to treat metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) that has a mutation of the anaplastic lymphoma kinase (*ALK*) or *ROS-1* genes, or unresectable, recurrent, or refractory inflammatory ALK-positive myofibroblastic tumors (IMT).

Crizotinib may also be used for other treatments.

Dose and schedule

Taking crizotinib as instructed is important to allow your treatment to be as effective as possible, so here are some key points to remember.

- Your dose may vary, but the usual dose of crizotinib is 250 milligrams (250 mg) to be taken by mouth at a scheduled time two times a day.
- Crizotinib can be taken with or without food, but at the same times each day.
- Crizotinib should be taken whole and not crushed, cut, or dissolved. If you are unable to swallow crizotinib, talk to your care provider or pharmacist for possible options.
- If you miss a dose of crizotinib:
 - **Do not** take the missed dose if it has been more than six hours since you should have taken it. Simply take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time.
 - **Do not** take two doses at one time.
 - Be sure to write down if you miss a dose and let your care provider know about any missed doses.

Drug and food interactions

- Crizotinib has many drug interactions, please inform your care providers of all prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, vitamins, and herbal products.
- Grapefruit or grapefruit juice may interact with crizotinib; avoid eating or drinking these during treatment with crizotinib.
- Talk with your care team or pharmacist before taking new medications or supplements, or receiving any vaccines.

Storage and handling

Handle crizotinib with care. Just like when chemotherapy is given into the vein, this drug can be toxic, and exposure of the drug to others should be limited.

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- ❑ Store crizotinib at room temperature (68°F–77°F) in a dry location away from light.
- ❑ Keep crizotinib out of reach of children and pets.
- ❑ Leave crizotinib in the provided packaging until it is ready to be taken.
- ❑ Whenever possible, give crizotinib to yourself and follow the steps below. If a family member, friend, or caregiver needs to give crizotinib to you, they also need to follow these steps:
 1. Wash hands with soap and water.
 2. Put on gloves to avoid touching the medication. (Gloves are not necessary if you give the drug to yourself.)
 3. Gently transfer the crizotinib from its package to a small medicine or other disposable cup.
 4. Administer the medicine immediately by mouth with water.
 5. Remove gloves and do not use them for anything else.
 6. Throw gloves and medicine cup in household trash.
 7. Wash hands with soap and water.
- ❑ If a daily pill box or pill reminder will be used, contact your care team before using:
 - The person filling the box or reminder should wear gloves (gloves are not necessary if you are filling the box or reminder).
 - When empty, the box or reminder should be washed with soap and water before refilling. Be sure to wash hands with soap and water after the task is complete, whether or not gloves are worn
- ❑ If you have any unused crizotinib, **do not** throw it in the trash and **do not** flush it down the sink or toilet. Talk to your care provider or pharmacist about proper disposal of crizotinib.
- ❑ If you are traveling, put your crizotinib's packaging in a sealed plastic bag. Ask your pharmacist if any additional travel precautions are needed.

Side Effects of Crizotinib

Below are common side effects that have been known to happen in about one third or more of patients taking crizotinib are listed on the left side of this table. You **MAY NOT** experience these side effects. Options to help manage any side effects that do occur are included on the right side of this table. These should be discussed with your care provider. If you experience any side effect you cannot manage or that is not listed here, contact your care provider.

Possible Side Effect

Management

Changes in kidney function

Your kidney (renal) function will be checked periodically by a simple blood test. Contact your care provider if you notice any of the following:

- Decreased amount of urination
- Unusual swelling in your legs and feet

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Possible Side Effect	Management
Changes in liver function	<p>Your liver function will be checked periodically by a simple blood test. Contact your care provider if you notice any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowing of the skin or whites of your eyes • Dark or brown urine • Bleeding or bruising
Eye changes	<p>This medication may cause blurred vision, dry eyes, or eye pain. Report changes in eyesight to your care provider.</p>
Decreased white blood cells (WBCs) and increased risk for infection	<p>Your WBCs should be monitored by a simple blood test. When your WBCs are low, you are at a greater risk of having an infection. Take the following precautions to protect yourself from infection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash your hands often, especially before eating and after using the bathroom. • Avoid crowds and people with fevers, flu, or other infection. • Bathe regularly to keep good personal hygiene. <p>Contact your care provider if you experience any signs or symptoms of an infection such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever (temperature more than 100.4°F or 38°C) • Chills • Sore throat • Burning with urination • Unusual tiredness • A sore that becomes red, is draining, or does not heal <p>Check with your care provider before taking any medicine for a fever or chills.</p>
Fluid retention or swelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not stand for long periods of time. • Keep your legs elevated when sitting or lying down. • Avoid eating salty foods, which can increase swelling. • Avoid wearing tight-fitting clothing and shoes. • Weigh yourself daily. <p>Contact your care provider if you notice the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swelling in the hands, feet, or legs • Shortness of breath • Weight gain of 5 pounds or more in a week
Respiratory tract infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash your hands often, especially before eating and after using the bathroom. • Avoid people with fevers, flu, or other infections. • Maintain good personal hygiene. • Report symptoms of a respiratory infection like a cough, sneezing, runny nose, fever, and scratchy or sore throat to your provider.

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Possible Side Effect	Management
<p>Diarrhea (loose and/or urgent bowel movements)</p>	<p>Monitor how many bowel movements you have each day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink 8–10 glasses of water or fluid each day unless your care provider has instructed you to limit your fluid intake. • Eat small, frequent meals throughout the day rather than a few large meals. • Eat bland, low-fiber foods, such as bananas, applesauce, potatoes, chicken, rice, and toast. • Avoid high-fiber foods, such as raw vegetables, raw fruits, and whole grains. • Avoid foods that cause gas, such as broccoli and beans. • Avoid lactose-containing foods, such as yogurt and milk. • Avoid spicy, fried, and greasy foods. <p>Contact your provider if any of the following occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of bowel movements you have in a day increases by four or more. • You feel dizzy or lightheaded. <p>Your care provider may recommend an over-the-counter medication called loperamide (Imodium®) to help with your diarrhea, but talk to your care provider before starting this medication.</p>
<p>Nausea or vomiting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eat and drink slowly. • Drink 8–10 glasses of water or fluid each day unless your care provider has instructed you to limit your fluid intake. • Eat small, frequent meals throughout the day rather than a few large meals. • Eat bland foods; avoid spicy, fried, and greasy foods. • Avoid vigorous exercise immediately after eating. • Don't lie down immediately after eating. • Avoid strong odors. <p>Let your provider know if you experience nausea or vomiting. Your provider may prescribe medication that can help.</p>
<p>Decreased appetite or weight loss</p>	<p>Talk to your care provider if you notice a decrease in weight while taking this medication. In addition, when you do not feel like eating, try the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eat small, frequent meals instead of three large meals each day. • Keep snacks nearby so you can eat when you feel hungry. • Drink liquid nutritional supplements. • Drink 8–10 glasses of water or fluid each day, especially if you are not eating, unless your care provider has instructed you to limit your fluid intake.

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Possible Side Effect	Management
Constipation	<p>Monitor how many bowel movements you have each day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink 8–10 glasses of water or fluid each day unless your care provider has instructed you to limit your fluid intake. • Stay active and exercise, if possible. • Eat foods high in fiber like raw fruits and vegetables. <p>Contact your care provider if you have not had a bowel movement in three or more days. Your care provider may recommend over-the-counter medications to help with your constipation. A daily stool softener such as docusate (Colace®) and/or laxative such as senna (Senakot®) may be helpful. If these do not help within 48 hours, tell your provider.</p>
Changes in electrolytes and other laboratory values <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low phosphorus levels 	<p>Changes in some laboratory values may occur and will be monitored by a simple blood test.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may not feel any symptoms if the changes are mild, and they usually are not a sign of a serious problem. • More severe changes may occur, which can be a sign of a serious problem. <p>Notify your care provider if you have any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortness of breath • Chest discomfort • Weakness or fatigue • New aches and pains • Headaches • Dizziness • Swelling of your legs or feet • Red- or brown-colored urine
Fatigue	<p>You may be more tired than usual or have less energy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay as active as possible, but know it is OK to rest, as needed. • Try to do some activity every day. • Plan your activities, and do them at a time of day when you feel a bit more energetic. • Avoid operating heavy machinery if you feel too tired.

Serious side effects of crizotinib

- ❑ Crizotinib may be harmful to your liver. Speak to your care provider to know when you need to have laboratory tests done to monitor your liver function. If you get this side effect, your doctor may change your dose or stop treatment for some time.
- ❑ Crizotinib may be harmful to your lungs. Inform your care provider of any new difficulty breathing, cough, or fever. Your provider may stop treatment with Crizotinib if your lungs are affected.

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- Be aware of changes in the electrical activity of your heart, called QT prolongation. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you feel faint, lightheaded, or dizzy, or if you feel your heart beating irregularly or fast, while taking crizotinib.
- Crizotinib can cause your heart rate to decrease. Monitor your heart rate and blood pressure regularly while taking crizotinib.
- There have been cases of severe visual loss in people taking crizotinib. Report any changes in your vision to your healthcare provider.

If you experience ANY uncontrolled side effect, call your physician or healthcare center immediately:

(INSTITUTIONAL CONTACT INFO)

Handling body fluids and waste

Since crizotinib remains in your body for several days after it is taken, some of the drug may be present in urine, stool, sweat, or vomit. Once you have started to take crizotinib, it is important to follow the instructions below every day for as long as your treatment lasts. This is to keep yourself, loved ones, and the environment as safe as possible.

- Pregnant women should avoid touching anything that may be soiled with body fluids from the patient.
- Toilet and septic systems
 - You may use the same toilet, septic tank, and/or sewer that you usually use. If you have a low-flow toilet, close the lid and flush twice to ensure all waste has been discarded.
 - If the toilet or toilet seat becomes soiled with urine, stool, or vomit, clean the surfaces before other people use the toilet.
 - Wash hands with soap and water after using the toilet.
- If you need a bedpan, be sure your caregiver knows to wear gloves to assist with cleanup and to wash the bedpan with soap and water every day.
- If you do not have good control of bladder or bowels, use a disposable pad with a plastic back, a diaper, or a sheet to absorb body waste.
- Wash any skin that has been exposed to body waste or crizotinib with soap and water.
- Linens or clothing that are soiled with body fluids or body waste should be washed separately from other linens and clothing. If you do not have a washer, place the soiled linens in a plastic bag until they can be washed.
- Wash hands with soap and water after touching linens or clothing that may be soiled with body fluids.

Pregnancy, sexual activity, and contraception

- Women should not become pregnant and men should not get a partner pregnant while taking crizotinib. Women of reproductive potential should use effective contraception during therapy and for a minimum of 45 days after the last dose of crizotinib. Men with female partners of reproductive potential should use effective contraception during therapy and for a minimum of 3 months after the last dose of crizotinib.
- Effective contraception could include 1 or more of the following: oral contraceptive, barrier methods, etc.
- Do not breastfeed while taking crizotinib and for 45 days after the last dose of crizotinib.

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- Please inform your care provider if you become pregnant.
- It is safe to hug and kiss. Special precautions may be needed for sexual activity while on oral chemotherapy, and you are encouraged to ask your care team.

Obtaining medication

- Talk with your care provider about the process for obtaining your crizotinib.

(PHARMACY OR SPECIALTY PHARMACY CONTACT INFO)

Additional resources

Product website: www.xalkori.com

Product prescribing information: <http://labeling.pfizer.com/showlabeling.aspx?id=676>

Product resources: www.xalkori.com/resources

Updated – July 22, 2022

Additional instructions

Important notice: The Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC), Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA), National Community Oncology Dispensing Association, Inc. (NCODA), and Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) have collaborated in gathering information for and developing this patient education guide. This guide represents a brief summary of the medication derived from information provided by the drug manufacturer and other resources. This guide does not cover all existing information related to the possible uses, directions, doses, precautions, warnings, interactions, adverse effects, or risks associated with this medication and should not substitute for the advice of a qualified healthcare professional. Provision of this guide is for informational purposes only and does not constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation, or favoring of this medication by ACCC, HOPA, NCODA, or ONS, who assume no liability for and cannot ensure the accuracy of the information presented. The collaborators are not making any representations with respect to the medications whatsoever, and any and all decisions, with respect to such medications, are at the sole risk of the individual consuming the medication. All decisions related to taking this medication should be made with the guidance and under the direction of a qualified healthcare professional.

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