

# ORAL CANCER TREATMENT EDUCATION



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## PAZOPANIB

### Name of your medication

Generic name — pazopanib (puh-ZOH-puh-nib)  
Brand name — Votrient® (VOH-tree-ent)

### Common uses

Pazopanib is used to treat patients with advanced kidney cancer (renal cell carcinoma) or advanced soft tissue sarcoma.

Pazopanib may also be used for other treatments.

### Dose and schedule

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Taking pazopanib 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 pazopanib is 800 milligrams (800 mg) to be taken by mouth at a scheduled time once a day.
- Pazopanib should be taken on an empty stomach (one hour before or two hours after a meal or snack) and at the same time each day.
- Pazopanib should be taken whole and not crushed, cut, or dissolved. If you are unable to swallow pazopanib, talk to your care provider or pharmacist for possible options.
- If you miss a dose of pazopanib:
  - **Do not** take the missed dose if it is within 12 hours or less before the next dose.
  - **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.
- If you need to have surgery, tell your care provider you are taking pazopanib. Pazopanib may need to be stopped until your wound heals after some surgeries.

### Drug and food interactions

- Pazopanib has many drug interactions. Inform your care providers of all prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, vitamins, and herbal products.
- Grapefruit or grapefruit juice may interact with pazopanib; avoid eating or drinking these during treatment with pazopanib.
- Talk with your care team or pharmacist before taking new medications or supplements, or receiving any vaccines.
- Avoid using acid-reducing agents such as proton pump inhibitors (e.g., omeprazole [Prilosec®], esomeprazole [Nexium®]) and histamine blockers (e.g., famotidine [Pepcid®]) while taking pazopanib, if possible. If taken with an antacid, separate pazopanib from the antacid by several hours.

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### Storage and handling

Handle pazopanib 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.

- Store pazopanib at room temperature (68°F–77°F) in a dry location away from light.
- Keep pazopanib out of reach of children and pets.
- Leave pazopanib in the provided packaging until it is ready to be taken.
- Whenever possible, you should give pazopanib to yourself and follow the steps below. If a family member, friend, or caregiver needs to give the pazopanib 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 pazopanib 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 pazopanib, **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 pazopanib.
- If you are traveling, put your pazopanib's packaging in a sealed plastic bag. Ask your pharmacist if any additional travel precautions are needed.

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### Side Effects of Pazopanib

Below are common side effects that have been known to happen in about one third or more of patients taking pazopanib 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
<b>Fatigue</b>	<p>You may be more tired than usual or have less energy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stay as active as possible, but know it is okay to rest as needed.</li> <li>Try to do some activity every day.</li> <li>Plan your activities, and do them at a time of day when you feel a bit more energetic.</li> <li>Avoid operating heavy machinery if you feel too tired.</li> </ul>
<b>Nausea or vomiting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eat and drink slowly.</li> <li>Drink 8-10 glasses of water or fluid each day unless your care provider has instructed you to limit your fluid intake.</li> <li>Eat small, frequent meals throughout the day rather than a few large meals.</li> <li>Eat bland foods; avoid spicy, fried, and greasy foods.</li> <li>Avoid vigorous exercise immediately after eating.</li> <li>Don't lie down immediately after eating.</li> <li>Avoid strong odors.</li> </ul> <p>Let your provider know if you experience nausea or vomiting. Your provider may prescribe medication to help with the nausea or vomiting.</p>
<b>Changes in liver function</b>	<p>Your liver function should 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"> <li>Yellowing of the skin or whites of your eyes</li> <li>Dark or brown urine</li> <li>Unusual bleeding or bruising</li> </ul>

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Possible Side Effect	Management
<p><b>Diarrhea (loose and/or urgent bowel movements)</b></p>	<p>Monitor how many bowel movements you have each day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink 8–10 glasses of water or fluid each day unless your care provider has instructed you to limit your fluid intake because of some other health problem.</li> <li>• Eat small, frequent meals throughout the day rather than a few large meals.</li> <li>• Eat bland, low-fiber foods (e.g., bananas, applesauce, potatoes, chicken, rice, toast).</li> <li>• Avoid high-fiber foods (e.g., raw vegetables, raw fruits, whole grains).</li> <li>• Avoid foods that cause gas (e.g., broccoli, beans).</li> <li>• Avoid lactose-containing foods (e.g., yogurt, milk).</li> <li>• Avoid spicy, fried, and greasy foods.</li> </ul> <p>Contact your provider if any of the following occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of bowel movements you have in a day increases by four or more.</li> <li>• You feel dizzy or lightheaded.</li> </ul> <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><b>Changes in electrolytes and other laboratory values</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High glucose levels</li> <li>• Low albumin levels</li> <li>• Low phosphate levels</li> <li>• Low sodium levels</li> </ul>	<p>Changes in some laboratory values may occur and should be monitored by a simple blood test.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may not feel any symptoms if the changes are mild, and they usually are not a sign of a serious problem.</li> <li>• More severe changes may occur, which can be a sign of a serious problem.</li> </ul> <p>Notify your care provider if you have any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shortness of breath</li> <li>• Chest discomfort</li> <li>• Weakness or fatigue</li> <li>• New aches and pains</li> <li>• Headaches</li> <li>• Dizziness</li> <li>• Swelling of your legs or feet</li> <li>• Red- or brown-colored urine</li> </ul>
<p><b>Decreased appetite or weight loss</b></p>	<p>Talk to your care provider if you notice a decrease in weight while taking this medication.</p> <p>When you do not feel like eating, try the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eat small frequent meals instead of three large meals each day.</li> <li>• Keep snacks nearby so you can eat when you feel hungry.</li> <li>• Take liquid nutritional supplements.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>

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Possible Side Effect	Management
<b>Increased blood pressure</b>	<p>Routinely take your blood pressure. Record your blood pressure in a journal or diary and report this information to your physician. Contact your care provider for high blood pressure or if symptoms such as the following occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Headache</li> <li>• Dizziness</li> <li>• Chest pain</li> <li>• Shortness of breath</li> <li>• Fluid retention, weight gain, or swelling</li> </ul>
<b>Hair color changes</b>	<p>Changes to your hair color may occur during treatment. The hair usually returns to normal after treatment; for some, the change is permanent.</p>
<b>Decreased white blood cells (WBCs) and increased risk for infection</b>	<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"> <li>• Wash your hands often, especially before eating and after using the bathroom.</li> <li>• Avoid crowds and people with fevers, flu, or other infection.</li> <li>• Bathe regularly to keep good personal hygiene.</li> </ul> <p>Contact your care provider if you experience any signs or symptoms of an infection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fever (temperature more than 100.4°F or 38°C)</li> <li>• Chills</li> <li>• Sore throat</li> <li>• Burning with urination</li> <li>• Unusual tiredness</li> <li>• A sore that becomes red, is draining, or does not heal</li> </ul> <p>Check with your care provider before taking any medicine for a fever or chills.</p>

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Possible Side Effect	Management
<p><b>Decreased platelet count and increased risk of bleeding</b></p>	<p>Your platelets should be monitored by a simple blood test. When they are low, you may bruise or bleed more easily than usual.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use caution to avoid bruises, cuts, or burns.</li> <li>• Blow your nose gently, and do not pick your nose.</li> <li>• Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush, and maintain good oral hygiene.</li> <li>• When shaving, use an electronic razor instead of razor blades.</li> <li>• Use a nail file instead of nail clippers.</li> </ul> <p>Call your care provider if you have bleeding that won't stop. Examples include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A bloody nose that bleeds for more than five minutes despite pressure</li> <li>• A cut that continues to ooze despite pressure</li> <li>• Gums that bleed excessively when you floss or brush</li> </ul> <p>Seek medical help immediately if you experience any severe headaches, observe blood in your urine or stool, cough up blood, or experience prolonged and uncontrollable bleeding.</p> <p><b>You may need to take a break or “hold” your medication for medical or dental procedures. Talk to your care provider or dentist before any scheduled procedures.</b></p>

### Serious side effects of pazopanib

- ❑ Pazopanib may cause a condition called QT or QTc prolongation, which is a heart rhythm that can cause fast, irregular heartbeats. These fast heartbeats may cause you to faint or have a seizure. In rare cases, this could be life-threatening. Tell your care team right away if you feel faint, lightheaded, dizzy, or if you feel your heart beating irregularly or fast, while taking pazopanib.
- ❑ Pazopanib can cause heart failure. Contact your care team right away if you are having any swelling or shortness of breath.
- ❑ Pazopanib can increase your risk of having a heart attack. Be aware of the signs of a heart attack and seek medical attention immediately at the first sign of a heart attack.
- ❑ Pazopanib can increase your risk of having a stroke. It is important to know the signs and symptoms of a stroke. Pay attention to when the signs and symptoms begin and call 911 immediately at the first sign of a stroke.
- ❑ There is a low risk that you may develop a rare condition called posterior reversible leukoencephalopathy syndrome while taking pazopanib. Seek care immediately if you have severe headaches, seizures, confusion, or changes in vision.
- ❑ Pazopanib can cause cuts or wounds to heal more slowly. Tell your care team if you have a wound that doesn't heal properly. Also tell your care team if you have planned surgery or dental procedure, as pazopanib should be stopped prior to your surgery. Your doctor may restart pazopanib after your surgical wound has healed.
- ❑ Pazopanib may rarely cause a tear or hole in your intestine called bowel perforation. Speak to your care team right away if you have a high fever, nausea, vomiting, or severe stomach pain.
- ❑ Pazopanib may cause problems with your thyroid. Speak to your care team to know when you need to have blood tests to monitor your thyroid. Your provider may prescribe medication to keep your thyroid working properly.
- ❑ Pazopanib may be harmful to your kidneys. Speak to your care team to know when you need to have blood tests to monitor your kidneys. Contact your care team if you notice swelling in your legs and feet or decreased amount of urination.

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- ❑ Pazopanib may cause your lung tissue to scar, which is called interstitial lung disease. Call your care team if you are feeling short of breath, have a fever, or have a lasting dry cough.
- ❑ Pazopanib can increase your risk of having a blood clot. Seek immediate medical attention if you have sudden swelling in an arm or leg, have chest pain, or trouble breathing.
- ❑ Some patients taking pazopanib have experienced tumor lysis syndrome (TLS) when starting treatment. TLS is a condition that occurs when many cancer cells die very quickly and release their contents into the blood which can damage the kidneys and other parts of the body. Your care provider may give you a medication or do blood tests to check for this side effect.

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

**(INSTITUTIONAL CONTACT INFO)**

### Handling body fluids and waste

Since pazopanib 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 pazopanib, 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 pazopanib 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 pazopanib. Males and females of childbearing age and potential should use effective contraception during therapy and for a minimum of 2 weeks after the last dose of pazopanib. Males taking pazopanib should use condoms (even after a vasectomy) during therapy and for a minimum of 2 weeks after the last dose.
- ❑ Effective contraception could include 1 or more of the following: oral contraceptive, barrier methods, etc.
- ❑ Do not breastfeed while taking pazopanib and for 2 weeks after the last dose of pazopanib.

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- 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 provider.

### Obtaining medication

Talk with your care provider about how to obtain your pazopanib.

\_\_\_\_\_ (PHARMACY OR SPECIALTY PHARMACY CONTACT INFO)

### Additional resources

**Product website:** [www.us.votrient.com](http://www.us.votrient.com)

**Product prescribing information:** [https://www.novartis.com/us-en/sites/novartis\\_us/files/votrient.pdf](https://www.novartis.com/us-en/sites/novartis_us/files/votrient.pdf)

**Product resources:** <https://www.hcp.novartis.com/products/votrient/advanced-renal-cell-carcinoma>

**Updated – January 9, 2024**

### Additional instructions

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**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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