Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Abrocitinib

This information from UpToDate® Lexidrug™ explains what you need to know about this medication, including what it's used for, how to take it, its side effects, and when to call your healthcare provider.

## Brand Names: US

Cibinqo

## Brand Names: Canada

Cibinqo

### Warning

- Severe infections like tuberculosis, shingles, fungal infections, and other bacterial or viral infections have happened in patients who take this drug. Sometimes, these have been deadly. The risk is greater if you also take drugs that suppress the immune system like methotrexate or corticosteroids. If you get a bad infection, your doctor may stop this drug until the infection is under control.
- TB (tuberculosis) has been seen in patients started

on this drug. These patients were exposed to TB in the past, but never got the infection. You will be tested to see if you have been exposed to TB before starting this drug.

- Lymphoma and other cancers have happened in people who take this drug or drugs like it. This has been deadly in some cases. Talk with the doctor.
- A study of a drug like this one showed a higher risk of heart attack, stroke, blood clots, and death. People in the study had rheumatoid arthritis (RA), were at least 50 years of age, and had at least 1 heart disease risk factor. This drug is not approved to treat RA.
- Heart attack, stroke, and blood clots have happened with this drug. Some of these were severe or deadly. Get medical help right away if you have signs of a heart attack, stroke, or blood clot.
- Tell your doctor if you smoke, have smoked in the past, or have ever had a heart attack, other heart problems, stroke, or blood clot.

## What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat eczema.

## What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?

- If you are allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.
- If you have kidney disease.
- If you have liver disease or if you have had hepatitis B or hepatitis C infections.
- If you have an infection.
- If you have any of these health problems: Low white blood cell count, low platelet count, or low red blood cell count.
- If you have recently had a live vaccine.
- If you are using another drug like this one. If you are not sure, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- If you are taking any drugs used to suppress your immune system like azathioprine or cyclosporine. There are many drugs that can do this. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.
- If you are taking aspirin (more than 81 mg), clopidogrel, or other drugs that affect platelets. There are many drugs that can do this. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.
- If you are breast-feeding. Do not breast-feed while you

take this drug and for 1 day after your last dose.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take this drug with all of your drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug without checking with your doctor.

## What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Have your blood work and other lab tests checked as you have been told by your doctor.
- If you have high blood sugar (diabetes), you will need to watch your blood sugar closely.
- You may have more chance of getting an infection. Wash hands often. Stay away from people with infections, colds, or flu.
- If you have had hepatitis B before or carry the virus, talk with your doctor. Drugs like this one can cause the virus

to become active. This can lead to very bad and sometimes deadly liver problems.

- Hepatitis B testing needs to be done as you were told by the doctor. Talk with the doctor.
- Some viral infections like herpes zoster (shingles) and herpes simplex have become active again with this drug. Tell your doctor if you have ever had a viral infection like herpes zoster or herpes simplex. Talk with your doctor.
- Make sure you are up to date with all your vaccines before treatment with this drug.
- Talk with your doctor before getting any vaccines right before you start this drug, while you take it, and right after you stop taking it. Vaccine use with this drug may either raise the chance of an infection or make the vaccine not work as well.
- Do not get a weakened bacteria like BCG for bladder cancer while you use this drug. Talk with your doctor.
- High cholesterol has happened with this drug. If you have questions, talk with the doctor.
- The chance of skin cancer may be raised. Avoid lots of sun, sunlamps, and tanning beds. Use sunscreen and wear clothing and eyewear that protects you from the sun.
- Have your skin checked. Tell your doctor if you have any

skin changes like a new wart, skin sore or reddish bump that bleeds or does not heal, or a change in the color or size of a mole.

- If you are 65 or older, use this drug with care. You could have more side effects.
- Talk with the doctor about how this drug may affect being able to get pregnant.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan on getting pregnant. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks of using this drug while you are pregnant.

## What are some side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?

**WARNING/CAUTION:** Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Signs of infection like fever, chills, or sweating; cough; muscle aches; shortness of breath; more sputum or

change in color of sputum; red, warm, swollen, painful, or blistered skin; weight loss; stomach pain; diarrhea; pain with passing urine; or passing urine more often.

- Signs of shingles like pain, itching, or tingling; fever; muscle aches; or rash (with or without blisters).
- Signs of high blood pressure like very bad headache or dizziness, passing out, or change in eyesight.
- Signs of low blood sugar like dizziness, headache, feeling sleepy, feeling weak, shaking, a fast heartbeat, confusion, hunger, or sweating.
- A skin lump or growth.
- Any unexplained bruising or bleeding.
- Call your doctor right away if you have a swollen gland, night sweats, shortness of breath, or weight loss without trying.
- Rarely, severe eye problems (retinal tear or detachment) have happened with this drug. Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you start to see flashing lights, floaters, a curtain-like shadow coming across your eye, or have sudden eyesight loss.
- Blood clots may happen with this drug. These may include heart attack, stroke, and clots in the legs or lungs. Call your doctor right away if you have chest, arm, back, neck, or jaw pain or pressure. Call your doctor if

you cough up blood or have dizziness; cold sweats; numbness or weakness on 1 side of your body; drooping on 1 side of the face; trouble speaking or thinking; change in balance; change in eyesight; shortness of breath; or swelling, warmth, or pain in the leg or arm.

## What are some other side effects of this drug?

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

- Upset stomach or throwing up.
- Dizziness or headache.
- Nose irritation.
- Signs of a common cold.
- Flu-like signs.
- Feeling tired or weak.
- Pimples (acne).
- Mouth or throat pain or irritation.
- Cold sores.
- Stomach pain.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor. Call

your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

You may report side effects to the FDA at 1- 800-332-1088. You may also report side effects at https://www.fda.gov/medwatch.

## How is this drug best taken?

Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

- Take with or without food.
- Take this drug at the same time of day.
- Swallow whole with a drink of water.
- Do not chew, break, or crush.
- Keep taking this drug as you have been told by your doctor or other health care provider, even if you feel well.

## What do I do if I miss a dose?

- Take a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it is less than 12 hours until the next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.
- Do not take 2 doses within 12 hours of each other.

## How do I store and/or throw out this drug?

- Store in the original container at room temperature.
- Store in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.

## General drug facts

- If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.
- Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else's drugs.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- This drug comes with an extra patient fact sheet called a Medication Guide. Read it with care. Read it again each time this drug is refilled. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with the doctor, pharmacist, or

other health care provider.

- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

## Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer

This generalized information is a limited summary of diagnosis, treatment, and/or medication information. It is not meant to be comprehensive and should be used as a tool to help the user understand and/or assess potential diagnostic and treatment options. It does NOT include all information about conditions, treatments, medications, side effects, or risks that may apply to a specific patient. It is not intended to be medical advice or a substitute for the medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment of a health care provider based on the health care provider's examination and assessment of a patient's specific and unique circumstances. Patients must speak with a health care provider for complete information about their health, medical questions, and treatment options, including any risks or benefits regarding use of medications. This information does not endorse any treatments or medications as safe, effective, or approved for treating a specific patient. UpToDate, Inc. and its affiliates disclaim any warranty or liability relating to this information or the

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If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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