

# pazopanib

**Pronunciation:** pa-ZO-pa-nib

**Other Name(s):** Votrient®

**Appearance:** tablet

This handout gives general information about this cancer medication.

You will learn:

- who to contact for help
- what the medication is
- how it is given
- what to expect while on medication



This handout was created by Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) together with patients and their caregivers who have also gone through cancer treatment. It is meant to help support you through your cancer treatment and answer some of your questions.

**This information does not replace the advice of your health care team. Always talk to your health care team about your treatment.**

## Who do I contact if I have questions or need help?

My cancer health care provider is: \_\_\_\_\_

During the day I should contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Evenings, weekends and holidays: \_\_\_\_\_

## What is this treatment for?

For treating certain type(s) of cancer of the kidney or soft tissue

## What should I do before I start this treatment?

Tell your health care team if you have or had significant medical condition(s), especially if you have / had:

- heart disease or heart rhythm problems,
- high blood pressure, bleeding or blood clots
- thyroid or liver problems, or
- any allergies.



### Remember To:

- ✓ Tell your health care team about all of the other medications you are taking.
- ✓ Keep taking other medications that have been prescribed for you, unless you have been told not to by your health care team.

You will have a blood test to check for hepatitis B before starting treatment. See the [Hepatitis B and Cancer Medications](#) pamphlet for more information.

## How is this treatment given?

- This medication is usually taken once a day by mouth. Talk to your health care team about how and when to take your medication.
- Do not crush or chew pazopanib tablets, as this may increase side effects.
- Swallow whole with a glass of water on an empty stomach, at least one hour before or two hours after food. Do not take with meals as that may increase risk of side effects.
- Do not eat or drink grapefruit, starfruit, Seville oranges or their juices (or products that contain these) while taking this drug. They may increase the amount of drug in your blood and increase side effects.
- If you forget to take a dose of your pazopanib:
  - If it has been less than 12 hours from the missed dose, take the dose as usual. Then take your next dose at the normal scheduled time.
  - If it has been longer than 12 hours, do not take the dose. Take your next dose at the normal scheduled time. Do not take extra (double up) to make up for the missed dose.
- If you vomit (throw up) after taking your medication, talk to your health care team about what to do.

**Warning:** If you take too much of this medication by accident, or if you think a child or a pet may have swallowed your medication, you must call the Ontario Poison Control Center right away at: 1-800-268-9017.

## Other medications you may be given with this treatment

### To Prevent Tumor Lysis Syndrome (TLS)

TLS can happen when a large number of cancer cells die quickly and your body cannot get rid of them fast enough. TLS can make you very sick. Ask your health care team if you are at risk for TLS.

If you are at risk for TLS, you may be given medications before your pazopanib treatment to help prevent it.

- These are called anti-uricemics (such as allopurinol), or others.

## Other important things for you to know about this treatment

While taking pazopanib, wounds may take longer to heal than normal or may not fully heal. Tell your health care team if you plan to have any surgery (including dental surgery). Your health care team may ask you to stop pazopanib treatment before any scheduled surgery.

**DO this while on treatment**

- ✓ DO check with your health care team before getting any vaccinations, surgery, dental work or other medical procedures.
- ✓ DO test your blood sugar regularly if you are taking any medications for diabetes. This treatment may cause changes in your blood sugar levels.

**DO NOT do this while on treatment**

- ✗ DO NOT use tobacco products (such as smoking cigarettes or vaping) or drink alcohol while on treatment without talking to your health care team first. Smoking and drinking can make side effects worse and make your treatment not work as well.
- ✗ DO NOT take any other medications, such as vitamins, over-the-counter (non-prescription) drugs, or natural health products without checking with your health care team.
- ✗ DO NOT start any complementary or alternative therapies, such as acupuncture or homeopathic medications, without checking with your health care team.
- ✗ DO NOT eat or drink grapefruit, starfruit, Seville oranges or their juices (or products that contain these) while on this treatment. These may increase the quantity of the medication in your blood and increase the side effects.

## Will this treatment interact with other medications or natural health products?

Yes, this medication can interact with other medications, vitamins, foods and natural health products. Interactions can make this medication not work as well or cause severe side effects.

Tell your health care team about all of your:

- prescription and over-the-counter (non-prescription) medications and all other drugs, such as cannabis/marijuana (medical or recreational)
- natural health products such as vitamins, herbal teas, homeopathic medicines, and other supplements

Check with your health care team before starting or stopping any of them.



### Talk to your health care team **BEFORE** taking or using these :

- Anti-inflammatory medications such as ibuprofen (Advil<sup>®</sup> or Motrin<sup>®</sup>), naproxen (Aleve<sup>®</sup>) or Aspirin<sup>®</sup>.
- Over-the-counter products such as dimenhydrinate (Gravol<sup>®</sup>)
- Natural health products such as St. John's Wort
- Supplements such as vitamin C
- Grapefruit juice
- Alcoholic drinks
- Tobacco
- All other drugs, such as marijuana or cannabis (medical or recreational)

## What to do if you feel unwell, have pain, a headache or a fever

- ✓ **Always** check your temperature to see if you have a fever **before** taking any medications for fever or pain (such as acetaminophen (Tylenol®) or ibuprofen (Advil®)).
  - Fever can be a sign of infection that may need treatment right away.
  - If you take these medications before you check for fever, they may lower your temperature and you may not know you have an infection.

### How to check for fever:

Keep a digital (electronic) thermometer at home and take your temperature if you feel hot or unwell (for example, chills, headache, mild pain).

- You have a fever if your temperature taken **in your mouth (oral temperature)** is:
    - 38.3°C (100.9°F) or higher at any time
- OR
- 38.0°C (100.4°F) or higher for at least one hour.



### If you do have a fever:

- ✓ **Try to contact your health care team. If you are not able to talk to them for advice, you MUST get emergency medical help right away.**
- ✓ Ask your health care team for the [Fever](#) pamphlet for more information.

If you do not have a fever but have mild symptoms such as headache or mild pain:

- ✓ Ask your health care team about the right medication for you. **Acetaminophen (Tylenol®)** is a safe choice for most people.



**Talk to your health care team before you start taking** ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®), naproxen (Aleve®) or ASA (Aspirin®), as they may increase your chance of bleeding or interact with your cancer treatment.



Talk to your health care team if you already take **low dose aspirin** for a medical condition (such as a heart problem). It may still be safe to take.

## How will this treatment affect sex, pregnancy and breastfeeding?

**Talk to your health care team about:**

- How this treatment may affect your sexual health
- How this treatment may affect your ability to have a baby, if this applies to you.

This treatment may harm an unborn baby. Tell your health care team if you or your partner are pregnant, become pregnant during treatment, or are breastfeeding.

- If there is **any** chance you may become pregnant, you and your partner together must use **2 effective forms of birth control** at the same time until **8 weeks** after your last dose. Talk to your health care team about which birth control options are best for you.
- If you are a patient that can get somebody pregnant, you and your partner together must use **2 effective forms of birth control** at the same time until at least **2 weeks** after your last dose. Talk to your health care team about which birth control options are best for you.
- Do not breastfeed while on this medication.



## How to safely store and handle this medication

Keep this medication in the original packaging at room temperature in a dry place, away from heat and light. Keep out of sight and reach of children and pets.

Do not throw out any unused medications at home. Bring them to your pharmacy to be thrown away safely.

## How to safely touch oral anti-cancer medication

### If you are a patient:

- Wash your hands before and after touching your oral anti-cancer medication.
- Swallow each pill whole. Do not crush or chew your pills.

### If you are a caregiver:

- Wear nitrile or latex gloves when touching tablets, capsules or liquids.
- Wash your hands before putting on your gloves and after taking them off, even if your skin did not touch the oral anti-cancer medication.
- Throw out your gloves after each use. Do not re-use gloves.
- Do not touch oral anti-cancer medications if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

## What to do if anti-cancer medication gets on your skin or in your eyes

### If medication gets on your skin:

- Wash your skin with a lot of soap and water.
- If your skin gets red or irritated, talk to your health care team.

### If medication gets in your eyes:

- Rinse your eyes with running water right away. Keep water flowing over your open eyes for at least 15 minutes.

## What are the side effects of this treatment?

The following table lists side effects that you may have when getting pazopanib treatment. The table is set up to list the most common side effects first and the least common last. It is unlikely that you will have all of the side effects listed and you may have some that are not listed.

Read over the side effect table so that you know what to look for and when to get help. Refer to this table if you experience any side effects while on pazopanib treatment.

Very Common Side Effects (50 or more out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p><b>Diarrhea</b></p> <p><b>What to look for?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loose, watery, unformed stool (poo) that may happen days to weeks after you get your treatment.</li> </ul> <p><b>What to do?</b></p> <p><b>If you have diarrhea:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take anti-diarrhea medication if your health care team prescribed it or told you to take it.</li> <li>Do not eat foods or drinks with artificial sweetener (like chewing gum or 'diet' drinks), coffee and alcohol, until your diarrhea has stopped.</li> <li>Eat many small meals and snacks instead of 2 or 3 large meals.</li> <li>Drink at least 6 to 8 cups of liquids each day, unless your health care team has told you to drink more or less.</li> <li>Talk to your health care team if you can't drink 6 to 8 cups of liquids each day when you have diarrhea. You may need to drink special liquids with salt and sugar, called Oral Rehydration Therapy.</li> <li>Talk to your health care team if your diarrhea does not improve after 24 hours of taking diarrhea medication or if you have diarrhea more than 7 times in one day.</li> </ul> <p>Ask your health care team for the <a href="#">Diarrhea</a> pamphlet for more information.</p>	<p>Talk to your health care team if no improvement after 24 hours of taking diarrhea medication or if severe (more than 7 times in one day).</p>

Common Side Effects (25 to 49 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p><b>High blood pressure</b></p> <p>(May be severe)</p> <p><b>What to look for?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are usually no signs of high blood pressure.</li> <li>• Rarely, you may have headaches, shortness of breath or nosebleeds.</li> </ul> <p><b>What to do?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check your blood pressure regularly.</li> <li>• Your doctor may prescribe medication to treat high blood pressure.</li> </ul> <p><b>If you have a severe headache get emergency help right away as it may be a sign your blood pressure is too high.</b></p>	<p>Talk to your health care team if it does not improve or if it is severe.</p>
<p><b>Changes in skin or hair colour</b></p> <p><b>What to look for?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The colour of your skin or hair may change (usually lighten) during treatment.</li> <li>• The colour of your skin or hair usually returns to normal after treatment ends.</li> </ul> <p><b>What to do?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk to your health care team if this bothers you.</li> </ul>	<p>Talk to your health care team if this bothers you.</p>
<p><b>Nausea and vomiting</b></p> <p>(Generally mild)</p> <p><b>What to look for?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nausea is feeling like you need to throw up. You may also feel light-headed.</li> <li>• You may feel nausea within hours to days after your treatment.</li> </ul>	<p>Contact your healthcare team if nausea lasts more than 48 hours or vomiting lasts more than 24 hours.</p>

Common Side Effects (25 to 49 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p><b>What to do?</b></p> <p><b>To help prevent nausea:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is easier to prevent nausea than to treat it once it happens.</li> <li>• If you were given anti-nausea medication(s), take them as prescribed, even if you do not feel like throwing up.</li> <li>• Drink clear liquids and have small meals. Get fresh air and rest.</li> <li>• Do not eat spicy, fried foods or foods with a strong smell.</li> <li>• Limit caffeine (like coffee, tea) and avoid alcohol.</li> </ul> <p><b>If you have nausea or vomiting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take your rescue (as-needed) anti-nausea medication(s) as prescribed.</li> <li>• Ask your health care team for the <a href="#">Nausea &amp; Vomiting</a> pamphlet for more information.</li> <li>• Talk to your health care team if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ nausea lasts more than 48 hours</li> <li>◦ vomiting lasts more than 24 hours or if it is severe</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

Less Common Side Effects (10 to 24 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p><b>Headache; mild joint, muscle pain or cramps</b></p> <p><b>What to look for?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mild headache</li> <li>• New pain in your muscles or joints, muscle cramps, or feeling achy.</li> </ul> <p><b>What to do?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take pain medication (acetaminophen or opioids such as codeine, morphine, hydromorphone, oxycodone) as prescribed.</li> <li>• Read the above section: <b>"What should I do if I feel unwell, have pain, a headache or a fever?"</b> before taking acetaminophen (Tylenol®), ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®), naproxen (Aleve®) or Aspirin. These medications may hide an infection that needs treatment or they may increase your risk of bleeding.</li> <li>• Rest often and try light exercise (such as walking) as it may help.</li> </ul>	<p>Talk to your health care team if it does not improve or if it is severe.</p>

Less Common Side Effects (10 to 24 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
Ask your health care team for the <a href="#">Pain</a> pamphlet for more information.	
<p><b>Low appetite</b></p> <p><b>What to look for?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of interest in food or not feeling hungry.</li> <li>• Weight loss.</li> </ul> <p><b>What to do?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try to eat your favourite foods.</li> <li>• Eat small meals throughout the day.</li> <li>• You may need to take meal supplements to help keep your weight up.</li> <li>• Talk to your health care team if you have no appetite.</li> </ul> <p>Ask your health care team for the <a href="#">Loss of Appetite</a> pamphlet for more information.</p>	Talk to your health care team if it does not improve or if it is severe.
<p><b>Cough and feeling short of breath</b></p> <p><b>What to look for?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may have a cough and feel short of breath.</li> <li>• Symptoms that commonly occur with a cough are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ wheezing or a whistling breathing</li> <li>◦ runny nose</li> <li>◦ sore throat</li> <li>◦ heartburn</li> <li>◦ weight loss</li> <li>◦ fever and chills</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Rarely this may be severe with chest pain, trouble breathing or coughing up blood.</li> </ul> <p><b>What to do?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check your temperature to see if you have a fever. Read the above section <b>"What should I do if I feel unwell, have pain, a headache or a fever?"</b>.</li> <li>• If you have a fever, try to talk to your health care team. <b>If you are not able to talk to them for advice, you MUST get emergency medical help right away.</b></li> </ul>	Talk to your health care team. If you are not able to talk to your health care team for advice, and you have a fever or severe symptoms, you <b>MUST</b> get emergency medical help right away.

Less Common Side Effects (10 to 24 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you have a severe cough with chest pain, trouble breathing or you are coughing up blood, get medical help right away.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Fatigue</b></p> <p><b>What to look for?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feeling of tiredness or low energy that lasts a long time and does not go away with rest or sleep.</li> </ul> <p><b>What to do?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be active. Aim to get 30 minutes of moderate exercise (you are able to talk comfortably while exercising) on most days.</li> <li>Check with your health care team before starting any new exercise.</li> <li>Pace yourself, do not rush. Put off less important activities. Rest when you need to.</li> <li>Ask family or friends to help you with things like housework, shopping, and child or pet care.</li> <li>Eat well and drink at least 6 to 8 glasses of water or other liquids every day (unless your health care team has told you to drink more or less).</li> <li>Avoid driving or using machinery if you are feeling tired.</li> </ul> <p>Ask your health care team for the <a href="#">Fatigue</a> pamphlet for more information.</p>	<p>Talk to your health care team if it does not improve or if it is severe.</p>
<p><b>Liver problems</b></p> <p>(May be severe)</p> <p>Your health care team may check your liver function with a blood test. Liver changes do not usually cause any symptoms.</p> <p><b>What to look for?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rarely, you may develop yellowish skin or eyes, unusually dark pee or pain on the right side of your belly. This may be severe.</li> </ul> <p><b>What to do?</b></p> <p><b>If you have any symptoms of liver problems, get emergency medical help right away.</b></p>	<p>Get emergency medical help right away.</p>

Less Common Side Effects (10 to 24 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p><b>Unusual bruising or bleeding</b></p> <p>(May be severe)</p> <p><b>What to look for?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch for signs of bleeding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ bleeding from your gums</li> <li>◦ unusual or heavy nosebleeds</li> <li>◦ bruising easily or more than normal</li> <li>◦ black coloured stools (poo) or blood in your stools (poo)</li> <li>◦ coughing up red or brown coloured mucus</li> <li>◦ dizziness, constant headache or changes in your vision</li> <li>◦ heavy vaginal bleeding</li> <li>◦ red or pink coloured urine (pee)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>What to do?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check with your healthcare team before you go to the dentist.</li> <li>• Take care of your mouth and use a soft toothbrush.</li> <li>• Try to prevent cuts and bruises.</li> <li>• Ask your health care team what activities are safe for you.</li> <li>• Your treatment may have to be delayed if you have low platelets. Your health care team may recommend blood transfusion.</li> </ul> <p><b>If you have signs of bleeding:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you have a small bleed, clean the area with soap and water or a saline (saltwater) rinse. Apply pressure for at least 10 minutes.</li> </ul> <p><b>If you have bleeding that does not stop or is severe (very heavy), you must get emergency medical help right away.</b></p>	<p>Talk to your health care team if you have any signs of bleeding. If you have bleeding that doesn't stop or is severe, you <b>MUST</b> get emergency medical help right away.</p>
<p><b>Pains or cramps in the belly</b></p> <p><b>What to look for?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain or cramps in your belly.</li> <li>• Constipation and diarrhea can cause pain in your belly.</li> </ul> <p><b>What to do?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the pain is severe, gets worse or doesn't go away, talk to your health care team about other possible causes.</li> </ul>	<p>Talk to your health care team if it does not improve or if it is severe.</p>

Less Common Side Effects (10 to 24 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<b>Dizziness</b>  <b>What to look for?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You may feel light-headed and like you might faint (pass out).</li> </ul> <b>What to do?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lay down right away so you do not fall.</li> <li>Slowly get up and start moving once you feel better.</li> <li>Do not drive a motor vehicle or use machinery if you feel dizzy.</li> </ul>	Talk to your health care team if it does not improve or if it is severe.

**Other rare, but serious side effects are possible with this treatment.**

If you have **any** of the following, talk to your cancer health care team or get emergency medical help right away:

- Pain, swelling and hardening of the vein in an arm or leg
- Severe headache, seizures, fainting, confusion, sudden loss of vision, trouble speaking or moving your arms or legs
- Weakness of one side of your body
- Sudden severe pain in your upper back, that moves up your neck or down your back, when you didn't hurt yourself
- Pain in the centre of your belly that may spread to your back
- Chest pain, slow/irregular heartbeat or pain in your arm
- Shortness of breath, difficulty breathing or coughing up blood, unusual hoarse or raspy voice
- Unusual pulsating or throbbing feeling in your chest or belly
- Severe belly pain and changes in your bowel movements, trouble swallowing
- Swelling in your belly and legs, passing very little or no pee, or new unusual weight gain
- Muscle twitches, cramps, or skin itchiness that won't go away
- New problems of the eye such as trouble seeing or blurry vision
- Feeling thirsty, very tired or sleepy, and peeing more often than usual
- Symptoms of hypothyroidism such as unusual weight gain, a lack of energy or feeling tired, getting cold easily, having dry skin, nails or hair that breaks easily
- Signs of an infection, including chills, fever (you have a fever if your temperature taken in your mouth (oral temperature) is 38.3°C / 100.9°F or higher at any time OR 38.0°C / 100.4°F or higher for at least one hour)

For more information on how to manage your symptoms ask your health care provider, or visit:

<https://www.cancercareontario.ca/symptoms>.



## Notes

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### December 2024 Updated/revised patient information sheet

*The information set out in the medication information sheets, regimen information sheets, and symptom management information (for patients) contained in the Drug Formulary (the "Formulary") is intended to be used by health professionals and patients for informational purposes only. The information is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, drug interactions or side effects of a certain drug, nor should it be used to indicate that use of a particular drug is safe, appropriate or effective for a given condition.*

*A patient should always consult a healthcare provider if he/she has any questions regarding the information set out in the Formulary. The information in the Formulary is not intended to act as or replace medical advice and should not be relied upon in any such regard. All uses of the Formulary are subject to clinical judgment and actual prescribing patterns may not follow the information provided in the Formulary.*