



Provincial Health Services Authority

## For the Patient: **GUPAZO**

Other Names: Palliative Therapy for Renal Cell Carcinoma Using Pazopanib (VOTRIENT<sup>®</sup>)

**GU** = GenitoUrinary (tumour group)

**PAZO** = PAZOpanib

### **ABOUT THIS MEDICATION**

#### **What is this drug used for?**

- Pazopanib (pa-ZO-pa-nib) is an oral drug treatment given as therapy to treat some types of advanced kidney cancer (renal cell cancer).

#### **How do these drugs work?**

- Pazopanib works by interfering with certain enzymes called tyrosine kinases that are important in transmitting the chemical signals needed for essential processes in the cells. It prevents the growth of blood vessels needed for nutrients and energy supply to cells from surrounding tissue to a cancer, and thus prevents the increase in the number of cancer cells.

### **INTENDED BENEFITS**

- This drug is being given to destroy and/or limit the growth of cancer cells in your body. This treatment may improve your current symptoms, and delay or prevent the onset of new symptoms.
- It may take some time before your doctor can judge whether or not this medicine is helping.

### **TREATMENT SUMMARY**

#### **How are these drugs given?**

- This medication is given as one dose every day. Take pazopanib on an empty stomach once a day, at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after a meal. Take pazopanib at around the same time every day.
- Pazopanib is a tablet which is taken by mouth.
- Do not split, chew or crush pazopanib tablets. Swallow whole.

#### **What will happen when I get my drugs?**

A blood test is done each cycle, on or about the day before each treatment. The dose and timing of your treatment may be changed based on your blood counts and/or other side effects.

The doctor will review the results of the blood test and meet with you each cycle.

## **SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM**

The doctor will review the risks of treatment and possible side effects with you before starting treatment. The nurse will review these with you on the day of your treatment.

It is important that you measure your blood pressure frequently at home, in particular in the beginning of your treatment (especially in the first 2 cycles of therapy). Keep a journal of your daily measured blood pressure to submit to your physician at your next visit.

Pazopanib may cause liver problems, so tell your doctor if you have any yellowing of your skin or the whites of your eyes (jaundice). Your doctor will order blood tests to check your liver before you start and while you take pazopanib.

Tiredness and lack of energy (fatigue) may sometimes occur with pazopanib. Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you are feeling tired. Maintain activities such as taking walks and light exercises. Further ideas can be found in “Your Bank to Energy Savings: How people with cancer can handle fatigue”.

Diarrhea may commonly occur with pazopanib. Tell your doctor if you are experiencing loose stools with pazopanib. If diarrhea is a problem, drink plenty of fluids and eat and drink often in small amounts. Avoid high fibre foods as outlined in “Food ideas to help with diarrhea during chemotherapy”

**If you experience symptoms or changes in your body that have not been described above but worry you, or if any symptoms are severe, contact \_\_\_\_\_ at telephone number \_\_\_\_\_**