



Provincial Health Services Authority

**For the Patient: Zanubrutinib**  
Other names: BRUKINSA®

- **Zanubrutinib** (zan" ue broo' ti nib) is a drug that is used to treat some types of cancer. It is a capsule that you take by mouth.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to zanubrutinib before taking zanubrutinib.
- **Blood tests** may be taken regularly during treatment. The dose and timing of your treatment may be changed based on the test results and/or other side effects.
- It is important to **take** zanubrutinib exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the directions.
- You may **take** zanubrutinib with food or on an empty stomach.
- If you are taking zanubrutinib **once daily** and you **miss a dose**, take it as soon as you can if it is within 12 hours of the missed dose. If it is more than 12 hours since your missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing time. Do NOT take a double dose to make up for the missed dose.
- If you are taking zanubrutinib **twice daily** and you **miss a dose**, take it as soon as you can if it is within 6 hours of the missed dose. If it is more than 6 hours since your missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times. Do NOT take a double dose to make up for the missed dose.
- If you **vomit** the dose of zanubrutinib, do not take a second dose. Skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing time(s). Call your healthcare team during office hours for advice as a medication to prevent nausea may be required for future doses.
- Other drugs such as digoxin (LANOXIN®), diltiazem (CARDIZEM®), and rifampin (RIFADIN®) may **interact** with zanubrutinib. Tell your doctor if you are taking these or any other drugs as you may need extra blood tests or your dose may need to be changed. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start or stop taking any other drugs.
- **Avoid grapefruit and grapefruit juice** for the duration of your treatment, as these may interact with zanubrutinib.

- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of zanubrutinib.
- Zanubrutinib may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with zanubrutinib. Hormonal birth control may not work as well while you are taking zanubrutinib. Ask your doctor how long you should continue using birth control after your treatment has ended. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breastfeed during treatment and for two weeks after the last dose.
- **Store** zanubrutinib capsules out of the reach of children, at room temperature, and away from heat, light, and moisture.
- **Tell** your doctor, dentist, and other health professionals that you are being treated with zanubrutinib before you receive any treatment from them.
- If you are planning to have **surgery** you may need to stop taking zanubrutinib 3 to 7 days *before* your surgery and then restart it 3 to 7 days *after* your surgery. This will help lower your risk of bleeding. Check with your doctor before stopping or restarting zanubrutinib.

#### Changes in blood counts

Zanubrutinib may cause temporary changes in your blood counts. Your doctor will be following these changes carefully by ordering regular blood tests. Adjustment of your treatment may be needed in certain circumstances.

BLOOD COUNTS	MANAGEMENT
<p>Normal platelets help your blood to clot normally after an injury (e.g., cut). <b>When the platelet count is low, you may be more likely to bruise or bleed.</b></p>	<p>To help prevent bleeding problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try not to bruise, cut, or burn yourself.</li> <li>• Clean your nose by blowing gently. Do not pick your nose.</li> <li>• Avoid constipation.</li> <li>• Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush as your gums may bleed more easily.</li> </ul> <p>Some medications such as ASA (e.g., ASPIRIN®) or ibuprofen (e.g., ADVIL®) may increase your risk of bleeding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not stop taking any medication that has been prescribed by your doctor (e.g., <b>ASA for your heart</b>).</li> <li>• For minor pain, try acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) first, but occasional use of ibuprofen may be acceptable.</li> </ul>

BLOOD COUNTS	MANAGEMENT
Normal white blood cells protect your body by fighting bacteria (germs) that cause infection. <b>When they are low, you are at greater risk of having an infection.</b>	To help prevent infection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wash your hands often and always after using the bathroom.</li> <li>• Avoid crowds and people who are sick.</li> <li>• Call your healthcare team <b>immediately</b> at the first sign of an infection such as fever (over 38°C or 100°F by an oral thermometer), chills, cough, or burning when you pass urine.</li> </ul>

Side effects are listed in the following table in the order in which they may occur. Tips to help manage the side effects are included.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<b>Nausea</b> and <b>vomiting</b> may occur. If you are vomiting and it is not controlled, you can quickly become dehydrated. Most people have little or no nausea.	You may be given a prescription for antinausea drug(s) to take at home. <b>It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred</b> , so follow directions closely. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids.</li> <li>• Eat and drink often in small amounts.</li> <li>• Try the ideas in <i>Practical Tips to Manage Nausea</i>.*</li> </ul> Tell your healthcare team if nausea or vomiting continues or is not controlled with your antinausea drug(s).
<b>Skin rashes</b> may sometimes occur.	If itching is very irritating, call your healthcare team. Otherwise, be sure to mention it at your next visit.
<b>Fever</b> may sometimes occur.	Fever (over 38°C or 100°F by an oral thermometer) may be a sign of an infection. Report this to your healthcare team <b>immediately</b> .
<b>Diarrhea</b> may sometimes occur. If you have diarrhea and it is not controlled, you can quickly become dehydrated.	If diarrhea is a problem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids.</li> <li>• Eat and drink often in small amounts.</li> <li>• Avoid high fibre foods as outlined in <i>Food Choices to Help Manage Diarrhea</i>.*</li> </ul> Tell your healthcare team if you have diarrhea for more than 24 hours.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<b>Constipation</b> may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exercise if you can.</li> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids.</li> <li>• Try the ideas in <i>Food Choices to Manage Constipation</i>.*</li> </ul>
<b>Headache</b> may sometimes occur.	Take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours if needed, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day.
<b>Muscle</b> or <b>joint pain</b> may sometimes occur.	You may take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day for mild to moderate pain. Occasional use of ibuprofen (e.g., ADVIL®) may be acceptable if acetaminophen does not help with the pain. Tell your healthcare team if the pain interferes with your activity.
<b>Sugar control</b> may sometimes be affected in patients with diabetes.	Check your blood sugar regularly if you have diabetes.
<b>Swelling</b> of hands, feet, or lower legs may sometimes occur if your body retains extra fluid.	If swelling is a problem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elevate your feet when sitting.</li> <li>• Avoid tight clothing.</li> </ul>
<b>Tiredness</b> and lack of energy may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you are feeling tired.</li> <li>• Try the ideas in <i>Fatigue/Tiredness – Patient Handout</i>.*</li> </ul>
A type of <b>skin cancer</b> may rarely occur.	Check your skin and tell your healthcare team right away if you notice any skin changes including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a new wart,</li> <li>• a sore or reddish bump that bleeds or does not heal, or</li> <li>• a change in size or color of a mole.</li> </ul> Refer to the <i>BC Health Guide</i> for information about protecting your skin from sun exposure.
<b>Hair loss</b> does not occur with zanubrutinib.	

\*Please ask your nurse or pharmacist for a copy.

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**STOP TAKING ZANUBRUTINIB AND CHECK WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE TEAM OR GET EMERGENCY HELP IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE:**

- Signs of an **infection** such as fever (over 38°C or 100°F by an oral thermometer), shaking chills; severe sore throat, productive cough (coughing up thick or green sputum); cloudy or foul smelling urine; painful, tender, or swollen red skin wounds or sores.
- Signs of **bleeding problems** such as black or tarry stools, blood in urine, pinpoint red spots on skin, or extensive bruising.
- Signs of **heart or lung problems** such as fast or uneven heartbeat, chest pain, chest pressure, shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing, swelling of feet or lower legs, or fainting.
- Signs of a **stroke** such as sudden onset of severe headache, eyesight changes, slurred speech, weakness or numbness in arm or leg.

**CHECK WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE TEAM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (DURING OFFICE HOURS) IF YOU HAVE:**

- Signs of **anemia** such as unusual tiredness or weakness.
- Signs of **liver problems** such as yellow eyes or skin, white or clay-coloured stools.
- Signs of **gout** such as joint pain.
- Signs of **bladder problems** such as changes in urination, painful burning sensation, presence of blood, or abdominal pain.

**CHECK WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE TEAM IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONTINUE OR BOTHER YOU:**

- Blurred vision.
- Loss of appetite or weight loss.
- Dizziness.
- Dry mouth or feeling thirsty.
- Excessive sweating.
- Muscle spasms or muscle weakness.
- Ringing in the ears.
- Abdominal pain, upset stomach, or heartburn.
- Nervousness or changes in mood that are not normal for you.
- Trouble sleeping.
- Redness, swelling, pain, or sores on your lips, tongue, mouth, or throat.
- Trouble walking.
- Voice changes such as becoming hoarse, raspy, strained.
- For patients with diabetes: uncontrolled blood sugars.

**REPORT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS TO YOUR HEALTHCARE TEAM**

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