

## **Package leaflet: Information for the patient**

**Axitinib 1 mg film-coated tablets**

**Axitinib 3 mg film-coated tablets**

**Axitinib 5 mg film-coated tablets**

**Axitinib 7 mg film-coated tablets**

axitinib

**Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

### **What is in this leaflet**

1. What Axitinib is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Axitinib
3. How to take Axitinib
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Axitinib
6. Contents of the pack and other information

#### **1. What Axitinib is and what it is used for**

Axitinib is a medicine containing the active substance axitinib. Axitinib reduces the blood supply to the tumour and slows down the growth of cancer.

Axitinib is indicated for the treatment of advanced kidney cancer (advanced renal cell carcinoma) in adults, when another medicine (called sunitinib or a cytokine) is no longer stopping disease from progressing.

If you have any questions about how this medicine works or why this medicine has been prescribed for you, ask your doctor.

#### **2. What you need to know before you take Axitinib**

##### **Do not take Axitinib:**

If you are allergic to axitinib or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).  
If you think you may be allergic, ask your doctor for advice.

### **Warnings and precautions**

#### **Talk to your doctor or nurse before taking Axitinib**

- **If you have high blood pressure.**  
Axitinib can raise your blood pressure. It is important to check your blood pressure before you take this medicine, and regularly while you are taking it. If you have high blood pressure (hypertension) you may be treated with medicines to reduce the blood pressure. Your doctor

should make sure that your blood pressure is under control before starting Axitinib treatment, and while on treatment with this medicine.

- **If you have thyroid gland problems.**  
Axitinib can cause thyroid gland problems. Tell your doctor if you get tired more easily, generally feel colder than other people, or your voice deepens whilst taking this medicine. Your thyroid function should be checked before you take Axitinib and regularly while you are taking it. If your thyroid gland is not producing enough thyroid hormone before, or while on treatment with this medicine, you should be treated with thyroid hormone replacement.
- **If you have had a recent problem with blood clots in your veins and arteries (types of blood vessels), including stroke, heart attack, embolism, or thrombosis.**  
Get emergency help right away and call your doctor if you get symptoms such as chest pain or pressure; pain in your arms, back, neck or jaw; shortness of breath; numbness or weakness on one side of your body; trouble talking; headache; vision changes; or dizziness while on treatment with this medicine.
- **If you suffer from bleeding problems.**  
Axitinib may increase your chance of bleeding. Tell your doctor if you have any bleeding, coughing up of blood or bloody sputum while on treatment with this medicine.
- **If you have or have had an aneurysm (enlargement and weakening of a blood vessel wall) or a tear in a blood vessel wall.**
- **If during treatment with this medicine you get severe stomach (abdominal) pain or stomach pain that does not go away.**  
Axitinib may increase the risk of developing a hole in the stomach or intestine or formation of fistula (abnormal tube-like passage from one normal body cavity to another body cavity or the skin).  
Tell your doctor if you have severe abdominal pain while on treatment with this medicine.
- **If you are going to have an operation or if you have an unhealed wound.**  
Your doctor should stop Axitinib at least 24 hours before your operation as it may affect wound healing. Your treatment with this medicine should be restarted when the wound has adequately healed.
- **If during treatment with this medicine, you get symptoms such as headache, confusion, seizures (fits), or changes in vision with or without high blood pressure.**  
Get emergency help right away and call your doctor. This could be a rare neurological side effect named posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome.
- **If you have liver problems.**  
Your doctor should do blood tests to check your liver function before and during treatment with Axitinib.
- **If during treatment with this medicine, you get symptoms such as excessive tiredness, swelling of the abdomen, legs or ankles, shortness of breath, or protruding neck veins.**  
Axitinib may increase the risk of developing heart failure events. Your doctor should monitor for signs or symptoms of heart failure events periodically throughout treatment with axitinib.

### **Use in children and adolescents**

Axitinib is not recommended for people aged under 18. This medicine has not been studied in children and adolescents.

### **Other medicines and Axitinib**

Some medicines may affect Axitinib, or be affected by it. Please tell your doctor, pharmacist or nurse about all the medicines you have recently taken, are currently taking, or plan to take, including medicines obtained without a prescription, vitamins, and herbal medicines. The medicines listed in this leaflet may not be the only ones that could interact with Axitinib.

The following medicines may increase the risk of side effects with Axitinib:

- ketoconazole or itraconazole, used to treat fungal infections;
- clarithromycin, erythromycin or telithromycin, antibiotics used to treat bacterial infections;
- atazanavir, indinavir, nelfinavir, ritonavir or saquinavir, used to treat HIV infections/AIDS;
- nefazodone, used to treat depression.

The following medicines may reduce the effectiveness of Axitinib:

- rifampicin, rifabutin or rifapentin, used to treat tuberculosis (TB);
- dexamethasone, a steroid medicine prescribed for many different conditions, including serious illnesses;
- phenytoin, carbamazepine or phenobarbital, anti-epileptics used to stop seizures or fits;
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), a herbal product used to treat depression.

You **should not** take these medicines during your treatment with Axitinib. If you are taking any of them, tell your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. Your doctor may change the dose of these medicines, change the dose of Axitinib, or switch you to a different medicine.

Axitinib may increase side effects associated with theophylline, used to treat asthma or other lung diseases.

#### **Axitinib with food and drink**

Do not take this medicine with grapefruit or grapefruit juice, as it may increase the chance of side effects.

#### **Pregnancy and breast-feeding**

- If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse for advice before taking this medicine.
- Axitinib could harm an unborn baby or breast-fed baby.
- Do not take this medicine during pregnancy. Talk to your doctor before taking it if you are pregnant or might become pregnant.
- Use a reliable method of contraception while you are taking Axitinib and up to 1 week after the last dose of this medicine, to prevent pregnancy.
- Do not breast-feed during treatment with Axitinib. If you are breast-feeding, your doctor should discuss with you whether to discontinue breast-feeding or discontinue Axitinib treatment.

#### **Driving and using machines**

If you experience dizziness and/or feel tired while on treatment with Axitinib, take special care when driving or using machines.

#### **Axitinib contains lactose**

If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicine.

#### **Axitinib contains sodium**

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol (23 mg) sodium per film-coated tablet, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

### 3. How to take Axitinib

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. You should check with your doctor, pharmacist or nurse if you are not sure.

The recommended dose is 5 mg twice a day. Your doctor may subsequently increase or decrease your dose depending on how you tolerate treatment with Axitinib.

Swallow the tablets whole with water, with or without food. Take the Axitinib doses approximately 12 hours apart.

#### **If you take more Axitinib than you should**

If you accidentally take too many tablets or a higher dose than you need, contact a doctor for advice right away. If possible, show the doctor the pack, or this leaflet. You may require medical attention.

#### **If you forget to take Axitinib**

Take your next dose at your regular time. Do not take a double dose to make up for the forgotten tablets.

#### **If you vomit while taking Axitinib**

If you vomit, an additional dose should not be taken. The next prescribed dose should be taken at the usual time.

#### **If you stop taking Axitinib**

If you are not able to take this medicine as your doctor prescribed or you feel you do not need it anymore, contact your doctor right away.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

### 4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

**Some side effects could be serious. You must immediately contact your doctor if you experience any of those following serious side effects (see also section 2 “What you need to know before you take Axitinib”):**

- **Heart failure events.** Tell your doctor if you experience excessive tiredness, swelling of the abdomen, legs, or ankles, shortness of breath, or protruding neck veins.
- **Blood clots in your veins and arteries (types of blood vessels), including stroke, heart attack, embolism, or thrombosis.** Get emergency help right away and call your doctor if you get symptoms such as chest pain or pressure, pain in your arms, back, neck or jaw, shortness of breath, numbness or weakness on one side of your body, trouble talking, headache, vision changes, or dizziness.
- **Bleeding.** Tell your doctor right away if you have any of these symptoms or a serious bleeding problem during treatment with Axitinib: black tarry stools, coughing up of blood or bloody sputum, or change in your mental status.

- **Hole in the stomach or intestine or formation of fistula (abnormal tube-like passage from one normal body cavity to another body cavity or the skin).** Tell your doctor if you have severe abdominal pain.
- **Severe increase in blood pressure (hypertensive crisis).** Tell your doctor if you have a very high blood pressure, severe headache, or severe chest pain.
- **Reversible swelling of the brain (posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome).** Get emergency help right away and call your doctor if you get symptoms such as headache, confusion, seizures (fits), or changes in vision with or without high blood pressure.

Other side effects with Axitinib may include:

**Very common: may affect more than 1 in 10 people**

- High blood pressure, or increases in blood pressure
- Diarrhoea, feeling or being sick (nausea or vomiting), stomach ache, indigestion, soreness of the mouth, tongue or throat, constipation
- Shortness of breath, cough, hoarseness
- Lack of energy, feeling weak or tired
- Under-active thyroid gland (may show in your blood tests)
- Redness and swelling of the palms of the hands or soles of the feet (hand-foot syndrome), skin rash, dryness of the skin
- Joint pain, pain in hands or feet
- Loss of appetite
- Protein in the urine (may show in your urine tests)
- Weight loss
- Headache, taste disturbance or loss of taste

**Common: may affect up to 1 in 10 people**

- Dehydration (loss of body fluids)
- Kidney failure
- Flatulence (wind), haemorrhoids, bleeding from gums, bleeding from the rectum, a burning or stinging sensation in the mouth
- Hyper-active thyroid gland (may show in your blood tests)
- Sore throat or nose and throat irritation
- Muscle pain
- Nose bleeding
- Skin itching, redness of the skin, hair loss
- Ringing/sound in the ears (tinnitus)
- Reduction in the number of red blood cells (may show in your blood tests)
- Reduction in the number of blood platelets (cells that help blood to clot) (may show in your blood tests)
- Presence of red blood cells in the urine (may show in your urine tests)
- Changes in the levels of different chemicals/enzymes in the blood (may show in your blood tests)
- Increase in the number of red blood cells (may show in your blood tests)
- Swelling of the abdomen, legs, or ankles, protruding neck veins, excessive tiredness, shortness of breath (signs of heart failure events)
- Fistula (abnormal tube like passage from one normal body cavity to another body cavity or the skin)
- Dizziness
- Inflammation of the gall bladder

**Uncommon: may affect up to 1 in 100 people**

- Reduction in the number of white blood cells (may show in your blood tests)

**Not known: frequency cannot be estimated from the available data**

- An enlargement and weakening of a blood vessel wall or a tear in a blood vessel wall (aneurysms and artery dissections)

**Reporting of side effects**

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at: [www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard) or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

**5. How to store Axitinib**

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and on the blister foil or bottle after “EXP”. The expiry date refers to the last day of the month.

This medicine does not require any special storage conditions.

Do not use any pack that is damaged or shows signs of tampering.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help to protect the environment.

**6. Contents of the pack and other information**

**What Axitinib contains**

- The active substance is axitinib. Axitinib film-coated tablets come in different strengths.  
Axitinib 1 mg: each tablet contains 1 mg axitinib  
Axitinib 3 mg: each tablet contains 3 mg axitinib  
Axitinib 5 mg: each tablet contains 5 mg axitinib  
Axitinib 7 mg: each tablet contains 7 mg axitinib
- The other ingredients are microcrystalline cellulose, lactose monohydrate, croscarmellose sodium, magnesium stearate, hypromellose 2910 (15 mPa·s), titanium dioxide (E171), triacetin (E1518), iron oxide red (E172) (see section 2 Axitinib contains lactose).

**What Axitinib looks like and contents of the pack**

Axitinib 1 mg film-coated tablets are red, oval and debossed with “Pfizer” on one side and “1 XNB” on the other. Axitinib 1 mg is available in bottles of 180 tablets and blisters of 14 tablets. Each blister pack contains 28 tablets or 56 tablets.

Axitinib 3 mg film-coated tablets are red, round and debossed with “Pfizer” on one side and “3 XNB” on the other. Axitinib 3 mg is available in bottles of 60 tablets and blisters of 14 tablets. Each blister pack contains 28 tablets or 56 tablets.

Axitinib 5 mg film-coated tablets are red, triangular and debossed with “Pfizer” on one side and “5 XNB” on the other. Axitinib 5 mg is available in bottles of 60 tablets and blisters of 14 tablets. Each blister pack contains 28 tablets or 56 tablets.

Axitinib 7 mg film-coated tablets are red, diamond shaped and debossed with “Pfizer” on one side and “7 XNB” on the other. Axitinib 7 mg is available in bottles of 60 tablets and blisters of 14 tablets. Each blister pack contains 28 tablets or 56 tablets.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

#### **Marketing Authorisation Holder**

Pfizer Limited  
Ramsgate Road  
Sandwich, Kent  
CT13 9NJ  
United Kingdom

#### **Manufacturer**

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