

Imbruvica (ibrutinib) basics

Treats certain types of leukemias. Imbruvica (ibrutinib) is better tolerated, but doesn't work as well as intensive chemotherapies.

What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.



Tips from pharmacists

- Take with a glass of water with or without food. Do not open, break, or chew the capsules.
- If you miss a dose, take Imbruvica (ibrutinib) as soon as possible on the same day and then return to your normal schedule. You shouldn't take extra capsules to make up the missed dose.
- Drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated, especially if you're experiencing diarrhea.
- Since some medicines interfere with how Imbruvica (ibrutinib) works, inform your doctor and pharmacist of all medicines that you are taking, including prescription, over the counter, and supplements.
- If you experience severe headaches, blood in stools or urine, or bleeding that doesn't stop, talk to your doctor right away.
- Tell your dentist you are taking this medicine. You may have to hold on taking this medicine while receiving dental procedures.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Bleeding

Imbruvica (ibrutinib) caused a bleeding episode in half of those taking the medicine. If you are scheduled to have surgery, you may need to hold taking Imbruvica (ibrutinib) for 3 to 7 days before and after the procedure. Tell your doctor right away if you have signs of severe headache, blood in stools or urine, or bleeding that doesn't stop.

Infections

Imbruvica (ibrutinib) can increase your risk for serious infections. Your doctor may recommend methods to prevent an infection. Tell your doctor right away if you develop signs of a possible infection such as fever, chills, or runny nose.

Irregular heart rhythm

Rarely, Imbruvica (ibrutinib) causes irregular heart rhythms. Talk to your doctor if you experience any rapid heartbeat, lightheadedness, and shortness of breath.