

Ribociclib

What is Ribociclib (RIB-o-si-club) and how does it work?

Ribociclib is a type of oral, targeted cancer therapy called a “cyclin D kinase inhibitor.” Another name for this medicine is Kisqali. It is made in a laboratory. This medicine dissolves in your digestive system and gets absorbed into your blood. Once inside cancer cells, Ribociclib can prevent cells from dividing and making new cancer cells.

How is this medicine used to treat my cancer?

Ribociclib may be given with Fulvestrant (Faslodex) or an aromatase inhibitor (Anastrozole, Letrozole, Exemestane) if you are postmenopausal and have estrogen receptor (ER)-positive breast cancer. These medicines work to stop fast growing cancer cells from dividing and making new cells, but they attack the cancer cells differently. Giving the 2 medicines together makes your treatment more effective. This treatment may be given for advanced breast cancer until it stops working or you have side effects that require you to stop treatment. It may also be given for early-stage breast cancer after surgery for 3 years.

What should I tell my doctor before starting this treatment?

Talk to your doctor about the following:

- If you have ever had chemotherapy or anti-cancer treatment and the names of the medicines you were given.
- If you have ever had liver or kidney problems.
- If you have ever had changes in your heartbeat or other heart problems.
- If you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant. Your doctor will talk with you about birth control when you take these medicines.
- If you are breastfeeding.
- If you have been told that you need to start a new medicine.

This handout is for informational purposes only. Talk with your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

- The medicines/pills you are taking, including:
 - ▶ Medicines ordered by any of your doctors
 - ▶ Herbs
 - ▶ Vitamins
 - ▶ Over-the-counter medicines

How does my doctor decide my treatment dose?

To determine your treatment dose, your doctor will review the following: your white blood cell counts, your medicines, how well your liver and kidneys work and any other health problems you have.

How do I handle, store and dispose of these drugs?

- **There are special safe handling instructions for this medicine.** Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse about the precautions you need to follow when taking this medicine at home.
- **Ribociclib comes from the pharmacy in individually wrapped containers.**
- **Store ribociclib in its original package in the refrigerator** once it is received from the pharmacy.
- When you are ready to start a new package of ribociclib, remove it from the refrigerator and **mark the date it was removed from the refrigerator** on the package.
- **Ribociclib is safe at room temperature for up to 2 months.** Once removed from the refrigerator, store the package at room temperature, away from heat, moisture, and direct light for up to 2 months. After 2 months, contact your doctor or pharmacist to discuss getting a replacement.
- Keep this medicine away from children and **do not** share it with anyone.
- **Disposal:**
 - ▶ Talk with your doctor or pharmacist about how to get rid of (dispose) this medicine safely.

How do I take Ribociclib?

- **Do not** crush, break, chew or open the tablet.
- See your prescription label for how many tablets to take each day and how often.
- There is a check (✓) in the box by your dose of Ribociclib:
 - 600 mg (3 tablets)
 - 400 mg (2 tablets)
 - 200 mg (1 tablet)
- One “cycle” is 4 weeks (28 Days):
 - ▶ On Days 1 to 21 (first 3 weeks of the cycle), take your dose of Ribociclib one time each day. Take this medicine around the same time every morning.
 - ▶ On Days 22 to 28 (last week of the cycle), **do not take** any Ribociclib.
- Ribociclib may be taken with or without food. Swallow the tablet whole with a full glass of water.
- If you miss a dose by more than 6 hours, wait until it is time for your next dose, and skip the missed dose. **Do not double up on doses.**
- **Do not** take another dose if you vomit.
- Your doctor may change your dose in the future to find out what works best for you. Taking a lower dose of Ribociclib does not mean the medicine will not work.

What are the side effects of this treatment?

Every person responds differently to treatment. Some of the more common side effects of Ribociclib are:

Most common side effects

- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Fatigue or weakness
- Diarrhea
- Constipation
- Low white blood cell counts (can increase your risk of infection)
- Low red blood cell counts (can lead to tiredness and weakness)
- Thinning of your hair
- Headache

Less common side effects

- Cough or shortness of breath
- Low platelet counts (can lead to easy bruising and bleeding)
- Decreased appetite
- Nosebleeds
- Infection
- Mouth sores
- Rash
- Itching
- Decrease in liver function. Your doctor will check how well your liver works before each treatment.

When should I call my doctor?

You should call your doctor right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) or higher

A fever can be life threatening if not treated. Your doctor may ask you to go to the hospital.

- Open sores on your tongue or in your mouth
- Nausea that makes you unable to eat or drink
- Diarrhea (4 or more loose stools in 24 hours) or diarrhea at night
- Shortness of breath, trouble breathing or cough that bothers you or will not go away
- Chills, sore throat, cough or a wound that does not get better
- Bleeding or bruising, including bloody or black stools or blood in your urine
- Changes in your heartbeat

Is there anything else I should know about this treatment?

- Ribociclib may cause changes in your blood counts. Your doctor will check your blood counts at the start of this treatment, every 2 weeks for the first 2 months, and then once a month starting during your 3rd month of treatment.
- Ribociclib may cause changes in your heartbeat. Your doctor may order a test to check your heart before you start treatment and at times during your treatment.
- **Do not eat or drink grapefruit, grapefruit juice, Seville oranges or star fruit.** This can increase your risk of side effects.
- This treatment may make it harder for your body to fight infections. Wash your hands often and stay away from people who are sick.
- It is important to keep hydrated during treatment. Unless told otherwise by your doctor, drink 8 to 10 cups of non-caffeinated fluid each day.

Go to this video link: <http://cancer.osu.edu/patientedvideos> to learn more about your cancer diagnosis, treatment and care.