

Tofacitinib (Xeljanz)

This medication is used to treat **ULCERATIVE COLITIS**

Included in a drug class called janus kinase inhibitors

Works by reducing inflammation that leads to the symptoms of ulcerative colitis

DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- Oral tablet taken twice daily
- Dose as prescribed by your provider
- Take with or without food
- Store at room temperature

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Increased risk of shingles
- Increased risk of infection
- Increased cholesterol
- Rare increased risk of non-melanoma skin cancer
- Rare risk of blood clot in the lung (noticed in rheumatoid arthritis patients)
- Unclear risk of lymphoma and bowel perforation

These rare risks are outweighed by potential complications of untreated inflammatory bowel disease

ADDITIONAL TESTING AND MONITORING

Prior to starting this medication, your doctor may order:

- Blood counts, liver tests, kidney test, cholesterol
- Test for tuberculosis (blood test or skin test with/without x-ray)
- Test for hepatitis B (blood test)
- Tests for inflammation (blood and/or stool test)
- Stool tests to rule out infection
- Flexible sigmoidoscopy and/or colonoscopy

While on this medication, your doctor may order:

- Blood counts and liver tests regularly to ensure safety
- Repeat cholesterol
- Repeat tests for inflammation and sigmoidoscopy and/or colonoscopy to assess response to treatment

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OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Make sure you are up to date on your vaccinations including: annual flu vaccine, Pneumovax, Prevnar-13, tetanus, hepatitis A and B, and Shingrix (age>50)
- Avoid LIVE vaccines while on this medication
- Certain medications may interact with the metabolism of tofacitinib
- Financial assistance may be available
- There is limited data, but tofacitinib is not currently recommended during pregnancy. If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, please contact your provider.
- This medication should be taken exactly as prescribed to properly treat your disease
- Please contact your provider if you notice any signs or symptoms of infection
- Do not stop or hold this medication without contacting your gastroenterologist



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