



The Voice of *Urologic Oncology* in Canada  
Canadian Urological Association  
La voix de *l'uro-oncologie* au Canada

## Patient Resource

**Sunitinib** *(monotherapy)*

Includes treatment diary

## Patient Resource: Sunitinib *(monotherapy)*

### SUTENT®

You have been prescribed sunitinib to treat your renal cell (kidney) cancer. Before you start your treatment with sunitinib, please discuss any health conditions you may have with your oncology healthcare professional.

Sunitinib is an anti-cancer medication that targets a group of proteins involved in the growth and spread of certain types of cancers. This medication comes in capsule (i.e., pill) form and is taken by mouth once daily, as prescribed by your oncology health care professional. Sunitinib can be taken with or without food. Swallow the pills whole with a glass of water. Sunitinib should be taken at the same time each day. Do not consume grapefruit or grapefruit juice during sunitinib treatment.

If you have any issues with taking your medication, please contact your pharmacist.

### Most Common Side Effects of Sunitinib in Adults

- Tiredness
- Headache
- Decreased white blood cell and platelet counts
- Increased blood pressure
- Mouth pain/irritation, mouth soreness, taste disturbances, dry mouth, or bleeding
- Upset stomach, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea or constipation
- Skin discolouration (this is due to the colour of sunitinib malate), hair colour change, dry skin, or rash/blisters on the palms of the hands or soles of the feet

If you experience any of the above side effects while being treated with sunitinib, report them to your oncology healthcare team and discuss the best way to manage them. DO NOT try to manage these side effects on your own. **See the next section for serious side effects that may require your doctor's attention right away.**

If you notice any symptoms or side effects not listed on this card that concern you, please don't hesitate to contact your oncology care team.

# Patient Resource: Sunitinib *(monotherapy)*

## SUTENT®

The below are serious side effects that may require extra support to manage and should be reported to your oncology healthcare team immediately. Do not try to manage these side effects on your own, always speak with your healthcare professional, oncology healthcare team or pharmacist if you have any concerns or questions about your health.

### Serious Side Effects of Sunitinib in Adults

Very common

Common

Uncommon

Rare

CAUTION

- ☹️ Talk to your healthcare professional if severe (e.g., impacting your ability to care for yourself, work, etc.)
- 💬 Talk to your healthcare professional in all cases
- 🛑 Stop taking sunitinib and get immediate medical help



## CIRCULATORY

Very common

- 💬 Abnormal bleeding including nosebleeds
- 💬 Heart palpitations, characterized by rapid, pounding or irregular heartbeat
- 💬 Infection
- 💬 Fever
- 💬 Swollen feet and ankles
- 💬 Unusual sweating
- 💬 Bruising, fever, tiredness, swelling, confusion, vision loss, or seizures, caused by damage to small vessels, called thrombotic microangiopathy

**STOP TAKING MEDICATIONS IMMEDIATELY AND GET IMMEDIATE HELP IF YOU EXPERIENCE A COMBINATION OF:**

- Chest tightening, shortness of breath, sweating
- Heart palpitations, fainting or seizures
- Sudden or severe pain in the back, chest or abdomen
- Cough, coughing up blood, strong pain high in the neck or back without cause, problems swallowing, hoarse voice, unusual pulsing in chest or abdomen



## DERMATOLOGIC

### Very common

- ☐ Painful wounds that do not heal
- ☐ Dry skin

### STOP TAKING MEDICATIONS IMMEDIATELY AND GET IMMEDIATE HELP IF YOU EXPERIENCE A COMBINATION OF:

- Infection around a skin injury (including those in the ano-genital area), fever, pain, redness, swelling, or draining of pus or blood
- Severe rashes that may initially appear as target-shaped or circular patches (often with central blisters), accompanied by fever, headache, tiredness, or cough. Rash may progress to widespread blistering or peeling of the skin, blisters in the mouth, and ulcers of the eyes



## GASTROINTESTINAL

### Very common

- ☐ Blood in stool
- ☐ Abdominal pain accompanied by: feeling sick, vomiting, constipation, or fever
- ☐ Constipation
- ☐ Weight gain or weight loss
- ☐ Increased appetite or thirst
- ☐ Pain in the mouth, teeth, or jaw
- ☐ Swelling or sores inside the mouth
- ☐ Numbness or heaviness in the jaw
- ☐ Tooth loosening or exposure of bone in the jaw



## HEPATIC

### Very common

- ☐ Yellowing of skin or eyes (jaundice), accompanied by dark urine, itchiness, or pain in the right upper stomach area



## NEUROLOGIC

### Very common

- ☐ Unusual tiredness
- ☐ Headache
- ☐ Irritability
- ☐ Dizziness
- ☐ Loss of consciousness
- ☐ Seizure
- ☐ Confusion
- ☐ Difficulty seeing, blurred, or impaired vision
- ☐ Muscle aches or weakness
- ☐ Trembling



## RESPIRATORY

### Very common

- ☐ Shortness of breath



## RENAL/UROLOGIC

### Very common

- ☐ Bloody or dark urine

# Blood Pressure Information and Log

When taking sunitinib, it is important to monitor your blood pressure. This should be done **1 week after first treatment, then every 2 weeks for the first 2 months, and then at least monthly thereafter during treatment.** This can be done using an at-home blood pressure monitor or the blood pressure monitors available at many local pharmacies and community health centres. If you are purchasing a monitor for at-home use, look for a statement of recommendation from Hypertension Canada on the package.

Please list any blood pressure medications you are currently taking below:

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**Prior to taking your blood pressure**, please ensure you do the following:

- Try to rest or relax for at least 30 minutes before you check your blood pressure
- Do not smoke
- Do not have any drinks with caffeine, such as pop, coffee or tea
- Take your blood pressure at approximately the same time of day

**While taking your blood pressure**, please ensure you do the following:

- Remove any tight clothing from your arm or wrist
- Check your blood pressure in a quiet room
- Sit down and stretch out your arm on a table and keep your arm at about the level of your heart
- Let your arm relax
- Make sure that your legs are not crossed
- Follow the directions that accompany the machine you are using

**Please see the next page for a blood pressure log to use during your treatment.**

**PLEASE USE THIS TREATMENT DIARY TO RECORD YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE INFORMATION THROUGHOUT TREATMENT**

**IMPORTANT:** Please record and report even minor symptoms. All side effects must be reported to your cancer care team.

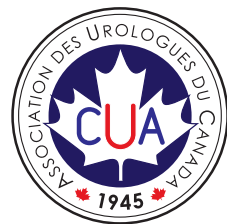
# Sunitinib

**Blood pressure (after the first week of treatment, then every 2 weeks for 2 months, then monthly)**

**If your blood pressure is greater than 170 mmHg (systolic) and 95 mmHg (diastolic) please call your cancer care team.**

[illegible]

Date of my next appointment is: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of my next appointment for blood work is: \_\_\_\_\_



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