Tofacitinib

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CANADIAN CHILDREN INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE NETWORK
A CH.I.L.D. Foundation Initiative

What this medication is used for

Health Canada approved for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis in adults. Currently being studied for Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis in children.

Health Canada

Health Canada has also approved this class of medication for other immune mediated inflammatory conditions in children and

How this medication works

Tofacitinib works by targeting a specific part of the immune system responsible for inflammation.

How to use this medication

Available as tablets, usually taken twice a day.

While taking this medication, it is forbidden to eat grapefruit or drink grapefruit juice.



Where treatment is administered

Fill your prescription at your pharmacy.

How long to use this medication

This medication may be used to get your IBD under control and keep it under control long-term.

Special tests done prior to starting

Tests to screen for infections including tuberculosis and immunity to various viruses.

Monitoring during treatment

Regular blood tests, stool tests, endoscopy and/or other imaging will be done to monitor for response and side effects to medications.

Side Effects

-Low levels of red blood cells, white blood cells and/or platelets
-Risk of infection
-Inflammation of the liver
-High blood cholesterol
-Acne

The following adverse events have rarely occurred in adults, and are even more rare in children:
-Thrombosis (blood clots)
-Major cardiovascular events (stroke, heart attack)
-Some forms of cancer

When I should call my doctor

Please call if:
-You want to or have already stopped the medicine.
-You are concerned about any side effects.
- If you become pregnant.

Vaccines

✗ Live vaccines
- Not Safe

✓ Inactivated vaccines
- Safe
Advise shingles vaccine if ≥ 18 years

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