

Tofacitinib

XELJANZ®



What this medication is used for

Currently being studied for ulcerative colitis in children.



Health
Canada

Health Canada approved for
ulcerative colitis in adults.



How this medication works

Tofacitinib works by targeting a specific part of the immune system responsible for inflammation. It belongs to a group of medications called JAK inhibitors.



Special tests done prior to starting

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



How to use this medication

Available as tablets, to be taken twice a day.

While taking this medication, you should not 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.



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
- If you are concerned about any side effects
- Worsening IBD symptoms such as blood in the stool, diarrhea and/or abdominal pain
- If you become pregnant



Vaccines



Live vaccines
- Not Safe



Inactivated vaccines
- Safe