

RITLECITINIB TREATMENT

What is ritlecitinib (aka Litfulo)?

Ritlecitinib is a medication taken by mouth which is used to treat severe hair loss from alopecia areata. It is approved by Health Canada for adolescents who are 12 years and older.

Practical things to know about taking ritlecitinib

- Ritlecitinib is taken **once a day** by mouth (50mg). Before starting ritlecitinib, you will have bloodwork done. This includes a full blood count (CBC) and liver tests (AST, ALT, hepatitis screening). This is repeated in 1 month
- You will also need to have a negative TB test
- You can take with or without food
- It is best if you are fully immunized before starting ritlecitinib
- It takes time for the hair to regrow. About half of children had good growth after 6 months and about 70% had good growth after 1 year
- If you need to stop taking ritlecitinib, you shouldn't lose the hair growth if you stop for less than 6 weeks
- We will initially fax the prescription to a specialty pharmacy to handle insurance coverage and discounts. After this, you can get the medication from any pharmacy

Side-effects of ritlecitinib

- Most patients do well with ritlecitinib
- Some patients develop acne (and this is treatable)
- You have a higher risk of herpes zoster infection (blisters on the skin)
- You also have a slightly higher risk of infection when you are on ritlecitinib

Important things to know about taking ritlecitinib

- Let your doctor know if you start any new medications while on ritlecitinib. For example, you should not take ritlecitinib if you are on the antibiotic rifampin.
- Ritlecitinib can increase the absorption of prescription-strength caffeine and medications like midazolam and sumatriptan. Your doctor may need to adjust the dose of these medications if you are on ritlecitinib.
- Notify your physician at once if an accidental overdose occurs