

ABROCITINIB TREATMENT

What is abrocitinib (aka Cibinqo)?

- Abrocitinib is a medication taken by mouth which is used to treat severe eczema (atopic dermatitis). It is approved by Health Canada for adolescents who are 12 years and older who are over 40 kg. It is also used for adult eczema, rheumatoid arthritis and psoriatic arthritis.

Practical things to know about taking abrocitinib

- Abrocitinib is taken **once a day** by mouth (100mg or 200 mg). It's better to take with food.
- Before starting abrocitinib, you will have bloodwork done. This includes a full blood count (CBC), liver enzyme tests (AST, ALT) and lipid testing (eg cholesterol). This is repeated in 1 month.
- You will also need to have a negative TB test.
- It is best if you are fully immunized before starting abrocitinib.

Side-effects of abrocitinib

- Most patients do well with abrocitinib
- You have a higher risk of herpes infection (blisters on the skin)
- You also have a slightly higher risk of infection when you are on abrocitinib
- Some patients also have worsening of acne
- Other side-effects include tummy pain and nausea which is less if you take with food.
- Some blood levels can go up (cholesterol, triglycerides, liver enzymes) or down (neutrophil or lymphocyte count). These do not cause any symptoms and will be tested for in the bloodwork
- Rarely, abrocitinib can cause blood clots. In adults with rheumatoid arthritis, we worry about heart issues and malignancy but this is not something we see in children.

Important things to know about taking abrocitinib

- Let your doctor know if you start any new medications while on abrocitinib. For example, you may need a dose adjustment if you are on fungal medications (fluconazole, miconazole, voriconazole), seizure medications (carbamazepine), reflux medication (omeprazole), antidepressants (fluvoxamine, fluoxetine) and some antibiotics (rifampin). Notify your physician at once if an accidental overdose occurs
- Abrocitinib seems to work pretty fast, and you should notice an improvement in the first few weeks
- You can continue using your eczema ointments and creams while you are taking abrocitinib