

# 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 (100mg or 200 mg). It's better to take with food.
- Before starting ritlecitinib, 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 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