

# Baricitinib

[Bear-EE-sit-in-ib]  
Olumiant®

<http://Rheuminfo.com>  
your rheumatology resource

## How to use this medication

### What is it



Baricitinib is a medication used to treat rheumatoid arthritis. While taking this medicine it is important to have your blood tests and see your doctor on a regular basis.

### Take it once a day



Baricitinib is taken once a day. Baricitinib comes in 2 and 4 mg tablets. The usual dose is 2 to 4 mg once a day.

### Be patient



Although some patients can feel better quite quickly in others it can take a little longer. Keep taking your medication.

## What you need to do

### Get regular blood tests



Have your blood tested regularly (your doctor will tell you how often). This is important to make sure baricitinib isn't affecting your kidneys, liver, blood counts, or cholesterol.

### Get tested for tuberculosis



All patients should have a tuberculosis skin test & chest x-ray before starting baricitinib. Talk to your doctor.

### Don't take if you have an infection



Baricitinib can make it harder for you to fight off infections. Call your doctor if:

1. You develop a fever
2. You think you have an infection
3. You are given antibiotics to treat an infection

### Don't get pregnant or breastfeed



Baricitinib has not been studied in pregnancy. Let your doctor know if you are planning to get pregnant or if you are breastfeeding. Baricitinib may harm an unborn child.

### Vaccinations



Baricitinib may increase your risk of developing shingles. Please talk to your doctor about the shingles vaccine.

## Side effects & important facts

### Nausea



Baricitinib may cause slight nausea. Let your doctor know if this is severe.

### Upper Respiratory Tract Infection



The most common side effect of baricitinib is symptoms of a cold

### Bowel Injury



Baricitinib has rarely been associated with an injury to the bowel. Let your doctor know if you have diverticulitis or develop stomach pain during your treatment with baricitinib.

### Blood Clots (DVT/PE)



Baricitinib has very rarely been associated with developing blood clots. Tell your doctor if you have new leg swelling or shortness of breath.

### Cancer



Baricitinib has very rarely been associated with developing cancer. Tell your doctor if you have had cancer in the past.

### Surgery



Baricitinib should be stopped before surgery. It can be restarted once things have healed and there is no sign of infection. Talk to your doctor about when to stop baricitinib.

### Drug interactions



There are some prescription medications that are not safe to take with baricitinib. Discuss any new medication with your doctor.

## When should I call my doctor

### Please call if you need to stop



- If you feel sick and want to stop
- If you are concerned about any side effects
- If you want to or have already stopped the medicine

### Other reasons to call your doctor:



Fever or think you have an infection



If you are having surgery



If you become pregnant



If you plan to get any vaccinations



New leg swelling or shortness of breath