

Tofacitinib

[Toe-FAH-sit-in-ib]
Xeljanz®

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

How to use this medication

What is it



Tofacitinib is a medication used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, and ulcerative colitis. While taking this medicine it is important to have your blood tests done and see your doctor on a regular basis.

Take it once or twice a day



Tofacitinib comes as tablets. It is usually taken as an 11 mg XR tablet once a day or a 5 mg twice a day. Your doctor may adjust the dose in some situations.

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 tofacitinib isn't affecting your kidneys, liver, blood counts, or cholesterol levels.

Get tested for tuberculosis



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

Don't take if you have an infection



Tofacitinib 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



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

Vaccinations



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

Side effects & important facts

Diarrhea



Tofacitinib may cause diarrhea. Let your doctor know if the diarrhea is severe.

Headaches



Tofacitinib can rarely cause a headache.

Bowel Injury



Tofacitinib 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 tofacitinib.

Blood Clots (DVT/PE)



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

Cancer



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

Surgery



Tofacitinib should be stopped before surgery. It can be restarted once things have healed and there is no sign of infection. If you are having surgery, talk to your doctor about when to stop tofacitinib.

Drug interactions



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

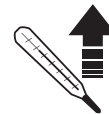
When should I call my doctor

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