

# Upadacitinib

[Oo-pa-DA-sit-in-ib]  
Rinvoq®

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

## How to use this medication

### What is it



Upadacitinib 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



Upadacitinib is taken once a day. Upadacitinib comes in 15 mg tablets. The usual dose is 15 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 upadacitinib isn't affecting your liver, blood counts, or cholesterol.

### Get tested for tuberculosis



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

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



Upadacitinib 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



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

### Vaccinations



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

## Side effects & important facts

### Nausea



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

### Upper Respiratory Tract Infection



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

### Bowel Injury



Upadacitinib 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 upadacitinib.

### Blood Clots (DVT/PE)



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

### Cancer



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

### Surgery



Upadacitinib 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 upadacitinib.

### Drug interactions



There are some prescription medications that are not safe to take with upadacitinib. 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