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2. Sorafenib

Sorafenib

Generic name: sorafenib [*soe-RAF-e-nib*]**Brand name:** [NexAVAR](#)**Dosage form:** oral tablet (200 mg)**Drug classes:** [Multikinase inhibitors](#), [VEGF/VEGFR inhibitors](#)[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Mar 14, 2024. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#) [FAQ](#)

What is sorafenib?

Sorafenib is used in adults to treat [liver cancer](#), [thyroid cancer](#), or [kidney cancer](#).

Sorafenib may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Sorafenib side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction** (hives, difficult breathing, swelling in your face or throat) or a **severe skin reaction** (fever, [sore throat](#), burning eyes, skin pain, red or purple skin rash with blistering and peeling).

Get emergency medical help if you have **symptoms of a heart attack or heart failure**: chest pain, fast heartbeats, sweating, nausea, trouble breathing, feeling light-headed, or swelling around your midsection or in your lower legs.

Sorafenib may cause serious side effects. Call your doctor at once if you have:

- fast or pounding heartbeats, fluttering in your chest;
- [shortness of breath](#), sudden dizziness (like you might pass out);
- pain, redness, swelling, rash, blisters or peeling in the palms of your hands or the soles of your feet;
- fever with nausea, vomiting, or severe stomach pain, change in bowel habits;
- a surgical incision or wound that will not heal;
- **liver problems**--loss of appetite, stomach pain (upper right side), nausea, dark urine, clay-colored stools, jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes); or
- **signs of bleeding inside your body**--easy bruising or bleeding (nosebleeds, bleeding gums), pink or brown urine, abnormal vaginal bleeding or heavy menstrual periods, bloody or tarry stools, coughing up blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds.

Your cancer treatments may be delayed or permanently discontinued if you have certain side effects.

Common side effects of sorafenib may include:

- bleeding;
- feeling tired;
- vomiting, diarrhea, nausea, stomach pain;
- low calcium level;
- infections;
- [high blood pressure](#);
- [hair loss](#), thinning hair;
- rash; or
- loss of appetite, [weight loss](#).

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Sorafenib side effects](#) (more detail)

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Warnings

You should not use sorafenib if you have squamous cell [lung cancer](#) and you are being treated with [carboplatin](#) and [paclitaxel](#).

Sorafenib can cause heart problems. Get emergency medical help if you have chest pain, fast heartbeats, trouble breathing, or swelling around your midsection or in your lower legs.

Sorafenib can also cause severe bleeding. Call your doctor if you have blood in your urine or stools, abnormal vaginal bleeding, severe stomach pain, cough with bloody mucus, or any bleeding that will not stop.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use sorafenib if you are allergic to it, or if you have squamous cell lung cancer and you are being treated with carboplatin and paclitaxel.

Tell your doctor if you have or have ever had:

- heart problems, chest pain, or a [heart attack](#);
- [long QT syndrome](#) (in you or a family member);
- high blood pressure;
- thyroid disorder;
- an electrolyte imbalance (such as abnormal levels of calcium, magnesium, or potassium in your blood);
- slow wound healing, bleeding problems; or
- surgery.

Sorafenib can harm an unborn baby **if the mother or the father is using sorafenib.**

- **If you are a woman**, you may need a pregnancy test to make sure you are not pregnant. Use [birth control](#) while using this medicine and for at least 6 months after your last dose.
- **If you are a man**, use birth control if your sex partner is able to get pregnant. Keep using birth control for at least 3 months after your last dose.
- Tell your doctor right away if a pregnancy occurs.

It may be harder for you to get a woman pregnant while you are using this medicine.

Do not breastfeed while using this medicine, and for at least 2 weeks after your last dose.

How should I take sorafenib?

Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Your doctor may occasionally change your dose. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

Take on an empty stomach, at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after a meal.

Your blood pressure will need to be checked often.

You will need frequent medical tests while taking this medicine.

If you need surgery, tell the surgeon or dentist ahead of time that you are using sorafenib. You should stop taking this medicine at least 10 days before having surgery. Follow your doctor's instructions about when to start taking the medicine again.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

Sorafenib dosing information

Usual Adult Dose for Renal Cell Carcinoma:

400 mg orally 2 times a day

Duration of therapy: Until the patient is no longer benefiting from therapy or until unacceptable toxicity occurs

Comments:

- This drug should be taken on an empty stomach, at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after food.
- The tablets should be swallowed with a glass of water.

Uses:

- [Hepatocellular Carcinoma](#) (HCC): For patients with unresectable HCC
- [Renal Cell Carcinoma](#) (RCC): For patients with advanced RCC
- Differentiated Thyroid Carcinoma (DTC): For patients with locally recurrent or metastatic, progressive, DTC that is refractory to radioactive iodine treatment

Usual Adult Dose for Thyroid Cancer:

400 mg orally 2 times a day

Duration of therapy: Until the patient is no longer benefiting from therapy or until unacceptable toxicity occurs

Comments:

- This drug should be taken on an empty stomach, at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after food.
- The tablets should be swallowed with a glass of water.

Uses:

- Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC): For patients with unresectable HCC
- Renal Cell Carcinoma (RCC): For patients with advanced RCC
- Differentiated Thyroid Carcinoma (DTC): For patients with locally recurrent or metastatic, progressive, DTC that is refractory to radioactive iodine treatment

Usual Adult Dose for Hepatocellular Carcinoma:

400 mg orally 2 times a day

Duration of therapy: Until the patient is no longer benefiting from therapy or until unacceptable toxicity occurs

Comments:

- This drug should be taken on an empty stomach, at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after food.
- The tablets should be swallowed with a glass of water.

Uses:

- Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC): For patients with unresectable HCC
- Renal Cell Carcinoma (RCC): For patients with advanced RCC
- Differentiated Thyroid Carcinoma (DTC): For patients with locally recurrent or metastatic, progressive, DTC that is refractory to radioactive iodine treatment

 [Detailed Sorafenib dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Skip the missed dose and use your next dose at the regular time. **Do not** use two doses at one time.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

What should I avoid while taking sorafenib?

Follow your doctor's instructions about any restrictions on food, beverages, or activity.

What other drugs will affect sorafenib?

Sometimes it is not safe to use certain medicines at the same time. Some drugs can affect your blood levels of other drugs you use, which may increase side effects or make the medicines less effective.

Sorafenib can cause a serious heart problem. Your risk may be higher if you also use certain other medicines for infections, asthma, heart problems, high blood pressure, [depression](#), mental illness, cancer, malaria, or HIV.

Tell your doctor about all your other medicines, especially:

- warfarin; or
- neomycin.

This list is not complete. Other drugs may affect sorafenib, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and [herbal products](#). Not all possible [drug interactions](#) are listed here.

 [Sorafenib drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does sorafenib interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

sorafenib

+

Enter a drug name

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Other brands

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Further information


Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

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DRUG STATUS

Availability	
Rx	Prescription only
Pregnancy & Lactation	
	Risk data available
CSA Schedule*	
N/A	Not a controlled drug
Approval History	
	Drug history at FDA

User Reviews & Ratings

5.5 / 10

[15 Reviews](#)

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