



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Sutent®

Generic name: Sunitinib

Drug type:

Sutent is a targeted therapy/receptor protein-tyrosine kinase inhibitor.

How Sutent is given:

- As a capsule taken by mouth.
- May be taken with or without food. Avoid grapefruit juice.

Sutent side effects:

Important things to remember about the side effects of Sutent:

- You will not get all of the side effects mentioned below.
- Side effects are almost always reversible and will usually go away after therapy is complete.
- Side effects are quite manageable. There are many options to minimize or prevent them.

The following side effects are common for patients receiving Sutent:

- Fatigue
- Diarrhea
- Nausea and vomiting
- Heartburn
- Taste changes
- Hypertension (high blood pressure)
- Low blood counts. Your white and red blood cells and platelets may temporarily decrease. This can put you at increased risk for infection, anemia and/or bleeding.
- Skin discoloration (possibly due to the drug color - yellow)

These are less common side effects for patients receiving Sutent:

- Poor Appetite
- Headache
- Increased liver enzymes
- Weakness
- Constipation
- Abdominal pain
- Bleeding
- Fever
- Dry skin
- Swelling of ankles and feet

- Dizziness
- Increased amylase and lipase levels
- Shortness of breath
- Generalized aches and pains
- Rash
- Flatulence
- Hand –foot syndrome (Palmar-plantar erythrodysesthesia or PPE) –skin rash, swelling, redness, pain and/or peeling of the skin on the palms of hands and soles of feet
- Dehydration
- Low potassium levels
- Increased bilirubin levels
- Hair color changes
- Cough
- Hair loss

Rare (2-3%) but serious side effects may include problems with blood clots. Blood clots can lead to pulmonary embolus or stroke – potentially life-threatening conditions.

When to contact your doctor or health care provider:

Contact your health care provider ***immediately***, day or night, if you should experience any of the following symptoms:

- Fever of 101° F or higher, chills (possible signs of infection)

The following symptoms require medical attention, but are not an emergency. Contact your health care provider ***within 24 hours*** of noticing any of the following:

- Nausea (interferes with ability to eat and unrelieved with prescribed medication)
- Vomiting (vomiting more than 4-5 times in a 24 hour period)
- Diarrhea (4-6 episodes in a 24-hour period)
- Unable to eat or drink for 24 hours or have signs of dehydration: tiredness, thirst, dry mouth, dark and decreased amount of urine, or dizziness
- Unusual bleeding or bruising
- Black or tarry stool or blood in your stools
- Blood in the urine
- Pain or burning with urination
- Extreme fatigue (unable to carry on self-care activities)
- Mouth sores (painful redness, swelling or ulcers)
- Swelling, redness and/or pain in one leg or arm and not the other (may be signs and symptoms of blood clot)

Always inform your health care provider if you experience any unusual symptoms.