

## PHARMACY

### Drug Information

# Lapatinib Tablet



### What is Lapatinib?

- Lapatinib is used for the treatment of breast cancer.

### How is Lapatinib Administered /Taken?

- Lapatinib is usually taken orally once daily on an empty stomach, an hour before or an hour after food at the same time each day.
- The tablet should be swallowed whole. Do not chew or crush the capsules. Inform your doctor or pharmacist if you have difficulty swallowing.
- If possible, handle the medication yourself. If you need a family member or caregiver to give the medication, ensure that they wash their hands before and after handling the medication.
- If you miss a dose of Lapatinib, skip the missed dose and take it at the next scheduled timing.
- If you vomit the dose of Lapatinib, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times.

### Can Lapatinib be Administered / Taken With Other Medications?

- Please inform your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking other medications, including Traditional Chinese Medicines, Jamu medicines or supplements.
- Avoid grapefruits. They may increase the amount of Lapatinib in your body to a harmful level.

### What are the Important Side Effects of Lapatinib?

- Medications prescribed by your doctor should be beneficial for your condition even though they may result in some inevitable side effects.

Side Effect	Management
Nausea or vomiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take small, frequent meals.</li> <li>• Avoid smells that precipitate nausea.</li> <li>• Take medicines for nausea or vomiting prescribed by your doctor.</li> <li>• Avoid tight-fitting clothes around the waist.</li> </ul>
Diarrhoea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform your doctor if this is severe and/or does not improve with medicine use.</li> <li>• Drink at least 2 litres (8 cups) of fluids every day when you are having diarrhoea.</li> <li>• Avoid milk, dairy products, high fibre food or spicy food while you are having diarrhoea.</li> </ul>
Mouth ulcers can occur on the tongue, the sides of the mouth or in the throat and this can lead to an infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brush your teeth gently after eating and at bedtime with a soft toothbrush.</li> <li>• Rinse and brush your dentures after eating and soak them in denture solution overnight.</li> <li>• Rinsing your mouth regularly with an alcohol-free mouth gargle or salt water may help reduce chances of infection.</li> </ul>
Skin rashes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform your doctor if the rash is very irritating. For mild rash, inform your doctor on the next visit as it generally resolves before the next treatment.</li> </ul>

Side Effect	Management
Muscle aches and joint pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mild pain can be relieved by taking Paracetamol (Panadol®). Inform your doctor if pain is not controlled by Paracetamol (Panadol®). Do not take Paracetamol (Panadol®) to relieve fever unless instructed by your doctor/ nurse.</li> <li>• Taking regular warm baths may also help.</li> </ul>
Slow or abnormal heart rhythm rarely occurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please proceed to the A&amp;E department immediately if your heart is beating irregularly or fast, or if you feel faint, lightheaded or dizzy.</li> </ul>
Lung problems (Pneumonitis, inflammation of the lung)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please proceed to the A&amp;E department immediately if you experience difficulty in breathing, shortness of breath, chest pain and/or new or worsening cough.</li> </ul>
Changes in the way the liver works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please proceed to the A&amp;E department immediately if you experience any yellowing of eye white and skin or tea-coloured urine, pale stools or severe abdominal pain.</li> </ul>
Changes in the way the heart works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please proceed to the A &amp; E department immediately if you experience shortness of breath, chest pain or sudden swelling of legs.</li> </ul>

**If you develop rashes, facial swelling or shortness of breath after taking the medication, you could be allergic to the medication. Please seek medical attention immediately.**

Talk to your cancer doctor if you think you need dental treatment. Always inform your dentist that you are having chemotherapy.

### **Are There any Special Precautions That I Need to Take?**

- It is important to inform your doctor if you intend to conceive or breastfeed while taking this medication.
- You must not become pregnant during treatment with Lapatinib and must use an effective method of contraception. You should take appropriate contraceptive measures during and up to 1 week after stopping treatment. If pregnancy occurs during your treatment, you must inform your doctor immediately.
- Lapatinib may have an anti-fertility effect, which could be irreversible. You should discuss with your doctor regarding fertility preservation prior to starting treatment.
- You should not breast-feed during treatment.

### **What Else can I do to Help My Condition?**

- Exercise  
Light exercise is recommended as it helps to improve mobility, balance and even emotional well-being. Avoid strenuous exercise, and rest when you are feeling tired.
- Stay positive  
Understand your condition and take an active role in managing it. Do not be afraid to talk about it with your doctor/ pharmacist/ family members. Repressed feelings can be harmful to your immediate well-being and long-term health.
- Adequate hydration  
Maintain adequate hydration with 2 to 3 litres (8 to 12 cups) of fluids per day unless informed by your doctor to restrict fluids. This will decrease your chances of getting constipation and also prevent dehydration.
- Medical and dental treatment  
If you need to go into hospital for any reason other than cancer, always inform the doctors and nurses that you are having chemotherapy.

### **How do I Store Lapatinib?**

- Store your medication in a cool, dry place away from heat, moisture and direct sunlight.

**If you have any problem with your treatment, please contact your doctor, pharmacist or nurse clinician.**

**Please keep all medications out of reach of children.**

**You can also find useful information with regards to your medication on this website:**

<https://www.macmillan.org.uk/information-and-support>



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