

## PHARMACY

### Drug Information

# Lenvatinib Capsule



### What is Lenvatinib?

- Lenvatinib is a medication used for the treatment of endometrial, kidney, liver and thyroid cancer.

### How is Lenvatinib Administered / Taken?

- Lenvatinib is taken once daily at the same time each day with or without food.
- The capsule 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 Lenvatinib, take it as soon as you remember. If your next dose is due within 12 hours, skipped the missed dose and take the next dose at your regular time. Do not double the dose.

### Can Lenvatinib 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.

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

- 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>

Side Effect	Management
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 two litres (8 cups) of fluids every day when you are having diarrhoea.</li> <li>• Avoid milk, dairy products, high fibre food or spicy food whilst you are having diarrhoea.</li> </ul>
Mouth ulcers can occur on the tongue, the sides of the mouth or in the throat and 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>
Hand-foot syndrome may occur during treatment. The palms of hands and soles of your feet may tingle, become red, darken, numb, painful, swollen or creases may be observed. Skin may also become dry or itchy. Nail beds may also darken.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform your doctor if blisters, severe pain or ulcers affects your normal daily activities.</li> <li>• Avoid tight-fitting shoes or rubbing pressure to hands and feet if this occurs.</li> <li>• Applying generous amount of moisturiser onto your hands and feet often may help.</li> <li>• Applying sunscreen with an SPF (sun protection factor) of at least 30 may help.</li> </ul>
Muscle aches and joint pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mild pain can be relieved by taking Paracetamol (Panadol ®). Inform your</li> </ul>

Side Effect	Management
	<p>doctor if pain is not controlled by Paracetamol (Panadol ®). Avoid Paracetamol (Panadol ®) when you are having fever.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taking regular warm baths may also help.</li> </ul>
Tiredness and lack of energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid driving or operating machinery if you are feeling tired.</li> </ul>
Headaches	<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 ®). Just a reminder to avoid paracetamol (Panadol ®) when you are having fever.</li> <li>• Inform your doctor if headache persists or if it is associated with vomiting, confusion or visual changes.</li> </ul>
Increased chances of bleeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please proceed to the A &amp; E department immediately if you cough up blood, have any unusual bruising, persistent nosebleeds or bleeding gums, unexpected vaginal bleeding, your vomit is bloody or looks like coffee grounds and/or you have black, tarry stools.</li> </ul>
Increased in blood pressure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blood pressure will be monitored regularly when you come to the clinic. If you have a blood pressure monitoring machine at home, you can measure your blood pressure every day and record it in a book.</li> </ul>

Side Effect	Management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please remember to take your medicines for high blood pressure if you are taking them.</li> </ul>
Slow wound healing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wounds may take longer to heal while you are being treated with Lenvatinib.</li> <li>If you have any surgery planned you should stop taking Lenvatinib for one week before and two weeks after the operation, until the wound is fully healed.</li> </ul>
Signs of a stroke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please proceed to the A&amp;E department immediately if you experience sudden onset of severe headache, eyesight changes, slurred speech, loss of coordination, weakness or numbness in an arm or leg.</li> </ul>
Signs of blood clot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please proceed to the A&amp;E department immediately if you experience tenderness or hardness over a vein, calf swelling and tenderness, sudden onset of cough, chest pain or shortness of breath.</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>
Thyroid function may be less effective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Symptoms of an underactive thyroid include tiredness, weight gain, constipation, aches, feeling cold, dry skin and dry hair. Inform your doctor should you have any new symptoms as you may need a blood test to check your thyroid levels.</li> </ul>

Side Effect	Management
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, skin or tea-coloured urine or severe abdominal pain.</li> </ul>
Changes in the way the kidney works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please proceed to the A &amp; E department immediately if you experience problems like not being able to pass urine, change in the volume of urine passed, blood in the urine or a big weight gain.</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.

#### **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 Lenvatinib and must use an effective method of contraception. You should take appropriate contraceptive measures during and up to one month after cessation of treatment. If pregnancy occurs during your treatment, you must inform your doctor immediately.
- Lenvatinib 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. Talk to your cancer doctor if you think you need dental treatment. Always inform your dentist that you are having chemotherapy.

## How Do I Store Lenvatinib?

- 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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