

PHARMACY

Drug Information

Ponatinib (Iclusig®) Tablet



What is Ponatinib?

- Ponatinib is an anticancer drug used to treat chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) or Philadelphia-chromosome positive acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (Ph+ALL) with the presence of T315I mutation.

How is Ponatinib Administered / Taken?

- Ponatinib is taken orally once daily, with or without food. Swallow it whole with a glass of water. Do not chew or crush the medication. Inform your doctor or pharmacist if you have difficulty swallowing.
- If possible, handle the medication yourself. If a family member or caregiver needs to give the medication, wash hands before and after handling the medication.
- If you miss a dose of Ponatinib, take it as soon as possible if it is within 12 hours of the missed dose. If it is more than 12 hours since your missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times.

Can Ponatinib be Administered / Taken With Other Medications?

- You should not drink grapefruit juice or eat grapefruit during your treatment with Ponatinib.
- Please inform your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking other medications, including supplements, traditional or herbal remedies.

What are the Important Side Effects of Ponatinib?

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

Side Effect	Management
Severe pain in stomach and back	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This could be a sign of pancreas inflammation. Please proceed to the A & E department immediately.
Numbness and tingling sensation in the hands or feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform your doctor if you have trouble buttoning up shirts or you are unable to pick up objects.

Side Effect	Management
Fatigue or tiredness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not drive or operate machinery if you are feeling tired. Inform your doctor if fatigue is persistent or worsens.
Increase in blood pressure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Please remember to take your medicines for high blood pressure if you are taking them.
Nausea or vomiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small frequent meals or sucking hard, sugar-free candy may help. Please remember to take the medicines for nausea or vomiting as instructed by your doctor if any.
Heart problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please proceed to the A & E department immediately if you experience signs of heart problems such as shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chest pain, fast heart beat or sudden swelling of legs.
Muscle aches and joint pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mild pain can be relieved by taking Paracetamol (Panadol®). Inform your doctor if pain is not controlled by Paracetamol (Panadol®). Avoid Paracetamol (Panadol®) when you are having fever. Taking regular warm baths may also help.

Side Effect	Management
Risk of infection may be increased as Ponatinib can reduce the number of white blood cells in your blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce risk of infection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash your hands after using the toilet. Avoid crowds and people who are sick. Do not share food and avoid taking raw food. Please proceed to the A & E department immediately if you experience signs of an infection such as fever with a temperature above 38°C, chills, and burning sensation when passing urine. Do not take Paracetamol (Panadol®) to relieve fever unless instructed by your doctor/ nurse.
Bruising or bleeding may occur as Ponatinib can reduce the number of platelets in your blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce risk of bleeding problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Try not to bruise, cut or burn yourself. Clean your nose by blowing gently. Do not pick your nose. Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush as your gums may bleed more easily. Be aware that bleeding may take a longer time to stop. Please proceed to the A & E department immediately if you experience signs of bleeding such as blood in urine or stools, or easy bruising.

Side Effect	Management
Upper respiratory tract infection eg, fever, chills, headache, muscle and joint aches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proceed to the A & E department if fever exceeds 38 degrees and do not take Paracetamol (Panadol®).
Changes in eyesight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please inform your doctor if you experience eye pain, swelling, redness, blurred vision, or other changes.
Changes in the way the liver works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please proceed to the A & E department immediately if you experience any yellowing of eye white and skin or tea-coloured urine, pale stools or severe abdominal pain.

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 Ponatinib and must use an effective method of contraception. You should take appropriate contraceptive measures during and up to 6 months after cessation of treatment. If pregnancy occurs during your treatment, you must inform your doctor immediately.
- Ponatinib 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 Ponatinib?

- 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.

