

## PHARMACY

### Drug Information

# Dasatinib Tablet



### What is Dasatinib?

- Dasatinib is used for the treatment of Philadelphia chromosome positive (Ph+) chronic myeloid leukemia (CML), or Ph+ acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL).

### How is Dasatinib Taken?

- Dasatinib is usually taken orally once a day.
- The tablet should be swallowed whole. Do not chew or crush the tablet. 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 Dasatinib, 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.
- If you vomit the dose of Dasatinib, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times.

### Can Dasatinib be 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 as they may increase the amount of Dasatinib in your body to a harmful level.

## What are the Important Side Effects of Dasatinib?

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

Side Effect	Management
Risk of infection can occur as Dasatinib can reduce the number of white blood cells in your blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reduce risk of infection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wash your hands after toileting.</li> <li>- Avoid crowds and people who are sick.</li> <li>- Avoid raw food.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Please proceed to the A&amp;E department immediately if you experience signs of infection such as fever with a temperature of 38°C and above, chills and shivering. Avoid taking Paracetamol (Panadol®) to relieve fever. Be aware that taking Paracetamol may mask fever and hence delay treatment of infection.</li> </ul>
Bruising or bleeding can occur as Dasatinib can reduce the number of platelets in your blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reduce risk of bleeding problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do not pick your nose.</li> <li>- Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush.</li> <li>- Be aware that bleeding may take a longer time to stop.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Please proceed to the A&amp;E department immediately if you experience any severe or persistent bleeding (e.g. passing a large amount of fresh blood in urine or stools, or passing black sticky stools) or significant bruising.</li> </ul>
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>
Fatigue or tiredness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not drive or operate machinery if you are feeling tired. Inform your doctor if fatigue is persistent or worsens.</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®). Avoid Paracetamol (Panadol®) when you are having fever.</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 doctor if pain is not controlled by Paracetamol (Panadol®). Avoid Paracetamol (Panadol®) when you are having fever.</li> <li>• Taking regular warm baths may also help.</li> </ul>
Skin reactions such as rashes, dryness, or itchiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid direct sunlight and applying sunscreen with an SPF (sun protection factor) of at least 30 may help. Alternatively, wear a hat, long sleeve shirt, and long pants when outside on sunny days.</li> <li>• Applying moisturisers to dry areas may help.</li> <li>• Inform your doctor if skin reactions persist or get worse.</li> </ul>

Side Effect	Management
Fluid retention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You may experience weight gain or swelling of hands, feet, or lower legs if your body retains extra fluids. Elevating your legs on a foot stool or with a cushion or pillow may help to reduce the swelling.</li> <li>In more serious cases, fluid may accumulate around the lining of the lungs or heart, causing significant dry cough, tiredness, chest pain and breathless. Inform your doctor if you experience these symptoms.</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?

- You must not become pregnant during treatment with Dasatinib and must use an effective contraceptive measures during and up to one month after stopping of treatment. If pregnancy occurs during your treatment, you must inform your doctor immediately.
- Dasatinib 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 two to three 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 Dasatinib?

- 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>

