

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"> • Take small, frequent meals. • Avoid smells that precipitate nausea. • Take medicines for nausea or vomiting prescribed by your doctor. • Avoid tight-fitting clothes around the waist.
Diarrhoea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform your doctor if this is severe and/or does not improve with medicine use. • Drink at least 2 litres (8 cups) of fluids every day when you are having diarrhoea. • Avoid milk, dairy products, high fibre food or spicy food while you are having diarrhoea.
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"> • Brush your teeth gently after eating and at bedtime with a soft toothbrush. • Rinse and brush your dentures after eating and soak them in denture solution overnight. • Rinsing your mouth regularly with an alcohol-free mouth gargle or salt water may help reduce chances of infection.
Skin rashes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

Side Effect	Management
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®). Do not take Paracetamol (Panadol®) to relieve fever unless instructed by your doctor/ nurse. • Taking regular warm baths may also help.
Slow or abnormal heart rhythm rarely occurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please proceed to the A&E department immediately if your heart is beating irregularly or fast, or if you feel faint, lightheaded or dizzy.
Lung problems (Pneumonitis, inflammation of the lung)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please proceed to the A&E department immediately if you experience difficulty in breathing, shortness of breath, chest pain and/or new or worsening cough.
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.
Changes in the way the heart works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please proceed to the A & E department immediately if you experience shortness of breath, chest pain or sudden swelling of legs.

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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