



For the Patient: Dasatinib
Other names: SPRYCEL®

BC Cancer Agency

- **Dasatinib** (da sa' ti nib) is a drug that is used to treat many types of cancer. It is a tablet that you take by mouth.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to dasatinib before taking dasatinib.
- **Blood tests** may be taken. The dose of dasatinib may be changed based on the test results and/or other side effects.
- It is important to **take** dasatinib exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the directions. You may be given tablets of more than one strength to make the right dose.
- You may **take** dasatinib with food or on an empty stomach.
- **Avoid grapefruit and grapefruit juice** for the duration of your treatment, as these may interact with dasatinib.
- If you **miss a dose** of dasatinib, take it as soon as you can 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 within 30 minutes of taking it, repeat the dose. Let your doctor know as a medication to prevent nausea may be required for future doses.
- Other drugs such as simvastatin (ZOCOR®) and acid reducers like famotidine (PEPCID®), ranitidine (ZANTAC®), and rabeprazole (PARIET®) may **interact** with dasatinib. Tell your doctor if you are taking these or any other drugs as you may need extra blood tests or your dose may need to be changed. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start or stop taking any other drugs.
- **Antacids** (such as MAALOX® or TUMS®) may reduce the absorption of dasatinib into the bloodstream. Take dasatinib **at least two hours before or after** these products.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of dasatinib.

- Dasatinib may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with dasatinib. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breast feed during treatment.
- **Store** dasatinib tablets out of the reach of children, at room temperature, away from heat, light, and moisture.
- **Tell** doctors, dentists, and other health professionals that you are being treated with dasatinib before you receive any treatment from them.

Changes in blood counts

Dasatinib may cause temporary changes in your blood counts. Your doctor will be following these changes carefully by performing blood tests. Adjustment of your treatment may be needed in certain circumstances.

BLOOD COUNTS	MANAGEMENT
<p>Normal white blood cells protect your body by fighting bacteria (germs) that cause infection. When they are low, you are at greater risk of having an infection.</p>	<p>To help prevent infection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash your hands often and always after using the bathroom. • Avoid crowds and people who are sick. • Call your doctor immediately at the first sign of an infection such as fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer), chills, cough, or burning when you pass urine.
<p>Normal platelets help your blood to clot normally after an injury (e.g., cut). When the platelet count is low, you may be more likely to bruise or bleed.</p>	<p>To help prevent bleeding problems:</p> <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. • Avoid constipation. • Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush as your gums may bleed more easily. <p>Some medications such as ASA (e.g., ASPIRIN®) or ibuprofen (e.g., ADVIL®) may increase your risk of bleeding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not stop taking any medication that has been prescribed by your doctor (e.g., ASA for your heart). • For minor pain, try acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®).

Side effects are listed in the following table in the order in which they may occur. Tips to help manage the side effects are included.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p>Nausea and vomiting may sometimes occur.</p>	<p>You may be given a prescription for antinausea drug(s) to take before your chemotherapy treatment and/or at home. It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred, so follow directions closely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink plenty of fluids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts. • Try the ideas in <i>Food Choices to Help Control Nausea</i>.*
<p>Fever and chills may sometimes occur. Frequent fever is an expected side effect of dasatinib which is not always caused by an infection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer), call your doctor immediately. • If you do not have an infection, your doctor may advise you to take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®).
<p>Skin reactions such as rash, dryness, or itchiness may sometimes occur.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moisturizing creams can help reduce skin dryness. • If skin reactions persist or get worse, call your doctor.
<p>Swelling of feet, lower legs, or around your eyes may commonly occur if your body retains extra fluid. Rarely, the fluid around your lungs, heart, or abdomen may increase.</p>	<p>If swelling is a problem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevate your feet when sitting. • Avoid tight clothing. • Call your doctor immediately if you experience sudden weight gain, cough, chest pain, or increasing shortness of breath.
<p>Diarrhea may sometimes occur.</p>	<p>If diarrhea is a problem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink plenty of fluids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts. • Avoid high fibre foods as outlined in <i>Food Ideas to Help with Diarrhea During Chemotherapy</i>.* • Note: If lactose in milk usually gives you diarrhea, the lactose in the tablet may be causing your diarrhea. Take LACTAID® tablets just before your dasatinib dose.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Constipation may rarely occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise if you can. • Drink plenty of fluids. • Try ideas in <i>Suggestions for Dealing with Constipation</i>.*
Headache, muscle, and/or joint pain may sometimes occur.	You may take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) for mild to moderate pain. Tell your doctor if the pain interferes with your activity.
Loss of appetite may sometimes occur.	Try the ideas in <i>Food Ideas to Help with Decreased Appetite</i> .*
Tiredness and lack of energy may commonly occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you are feeling tired. • Try the ideas in <i>Your Bank of Energy Savings: How People with Cancer Can Handle Fatigue</i>.*
Numbness or tingling of the fingers or toes may rarely occur. This will slowly return to normal once you stop treatment with dasatinib. This may take several months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be careful when handling items that are sharp, hot, or cold. • Tell your doctor at your next visit, especially if you have trouble with buttons, writing, or picking up small objects.
Hair loss is rare with dasatinib. If you lose hair, it will grow back once you stop treatment with dasatinib. Colour and texture may change.	If hair loss is a problem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a gentle shampoo and soft brush. • Care should be taken with use of bleaches, dyes, and perms.

*Please ask your chemotherapy nurse or pharmacist for a copy.

STOP TAKING DASATINIB AND SEE YOUR DOCTOR OR GET EMERGENCY HELP IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE:

- Signs of an **infection** such as fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer), shaking chills; severe sore throat, productive cough (coughing up thick or green sputum); cloudy or foul smelling urine; painful, tender, or swollen red skin wounds or sores.
- Signs of an **allergic reaction** (rare) soon after a treatment including dizziness, fast heart beat, face swelling, or breathing problems.
- Signs of a **stroke** such as sudden onset of severe headache, eyesight changes, slurred speech, loss of coordination, weakness or numbness in arm or leg.
- Signs of serious **fluid retention** such as sudden weight gain, cough, chest pain, or increasing shortness of breath.
- Signs of **bleeding problems** such as black, tarry stools; blood in urine; pinpoint red spots on skin; extensive bruising.
- Signs of **heart problems** such as fast or uneven heartbeat.

