



Provincial Health Services Authority

**For the Patient: Avapritinib**  
Other names: AYVAKYT®

- **Avapritinib** (a" va pri' ti nib) is a drug that is used to treat some 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 avapritinib before taking avapritinib.
- **Blood tests** may be taken regularly during treatment. The dose and timing of your treatment may be changed based on the test results and/or other side effects.
- It is important to **take** avapritinib exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the directions.
- **Take** avapritinib on an empty stomach.
- If you **miss a dose** of avapritinib, take it as soon as you can. If it is close to your next dose (within 8 hours), skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times. Do NOT take more than one dose to make up for the missed dose. Be sure to mention it to your healthcare team at your next visit.
- If you **vomit** the dose of avapritinib, do not take a second dose. Take your next dose at your usual dosing time. Call your healthcare team during office hours for advice as a medication to prevent nausea may be required for future doses.
- Other drugs such as itraconazole (SPORANOX®) and rifampin (RIFADIN®) may **interact** with avapritinib. 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.
- **Avoid grapefruit and grapefruit juice** for the duration of your treatment, as these may interact with avapritinib.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of avapritinib.
- Avapritinib may affect **fertility** in men and women. If you plan to have children, discuss this with your doctor before being treated with avapritinib.
- Avapritinib may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with avapritinib. Ask your doctor how long you should continue using birth control after your treatment has ended. Tell your doctor right

away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breastfeed during treatment and for two weeks after your last dose.

- **Store** avapritinib tablets out of the reach of children, at room temperature, away from heat, light, and moisture.
- **Tell** your doctor, dentist, and other health professionals that you are being treated with avapritinib before you receive any treatment from them.

### Changes in blood counts

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

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

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
<b>Nausea</b> and <b>vomiting</b> may occur. If you are vomiting and it is not controlled, you can quickly become dehydrated. Most people have little or no nausea.	<p>You may be given a prescription for antinausea drug(s) to take at home. <b>It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred</b>, so follow directions closely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids.</li> <li>• Eat and drink often in small amounts.</li> <li>• Try the ideas in <i>Practical Tips to Manage Nausea</i>.*</li> </ul> <p>Tell your healthcare team if nausea or vomiting continues or is not controlled with your antinausea drug(s).</p>
<b>Skin rash</b> and <b>itching</b> may sometimes occur.	<p>If itching is very irritating, call your healthcare team. Otherwise, be sure to mention it at your next visit.</p>
Minor bleeding, such as <b>nosebleeds</b> , may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sit up straight and tip your head slightly forward. Tilting your head back may cause blood to run down your throat.</li> <li>• Pinch your nostrils shut between your thumb and forefinger or apply firm pressure against the bleeding nostril for 10 full minutes.</li> <li>• After 10 minutes, check to see if your nose is still bleeding. If it is, hold it for 10 more minutes.</li> <li>• Stay quiet for a few hours and do not blow your nose for at least 12 hours after the bleeding has stopped.</li> </ul> <p>Get emergency help if a nosebleed lasts longer than 20 minutes.</p>
<b>Diarrhea</b> may sometimes occur. If you have diarrhea and it is not controlled, you can quickly become dehydrated.	<p>If diarrhea is a problem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids.</li> <li>• Eat and drink often in small amounts.</li> <li>• Avoid high fibre foods as outlined in <i>Food Choices to Help Manage Diarrhea</i>.*</li> </ul> <p>Tell your healthcare team if you have diarrhea for more than 24 hours.</p>

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<b>Constipation</b> may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exercise if you can.</li> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids.</li> <li>• Try the ideas in <i>Food Choices to Manage Constipation</i>.*</li> </ul>
<b>Headache</b> may sometimes occur.	Take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours if needed, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day.
<b>Muscle pain, joint pain, or muscle spasms</b> may sometimes occur.	You may take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day. Tell your healthcare team if the pain interferes with your activity.
<b>Swelling</b> of feet, lower legs, face, 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>If swelling is a problem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elevate your feet when sitting.</li> <li>• Avoid tight clothing.</li> </ul> <p>Call your healthcare team <b>immediately</b> if you experience sudden weight gain, cough, chest pain, or increasing shortness of breath.</p>
<b>Loss of appetite</b> may sometimes occur.	Try the ideas in <i>Food Ideas to Help with Decreased Appetite</i> .*
<b>Taste alteration</b> may sometimes occur.	Try the ideas in <i>Food Ideas to Cope with Taste and Smell Changes</i> .*
<b>Tiredness</b> and lack of energy may commonly occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you are feeling tired.</li> <li>• Try the ideas in <i>Fatigue/Tiredness – Patient Handout</i>.*</li> </ul>
<b>Hair loss</b> is rare with avapritinib. If you lose hair, it will grow back once you stop treatment with avapritinib. <b>Hair colour</b> and texture may change.	If hair loss is a problem, refer to <i>Resources for Hair Loss and Appearance Changes – Patient Handout</i> .*
<b>Numbness or tingling of the fingers or toes</b> may sometimes occur. This will slowly return to normal once your treatments are over. This may take several months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be careful when handling items that are sharp, hot, or cold.</li> <li>• Be careful when walking on uneven surfaces or doing activities that need you to balance or be steady.</li> <li>• Tell your healthcare team at your next visit if you have trouble with buttons, writing, picking up small objects, walking, or have fallen.</li> </ul>

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Your <b>skin may sunburn</b> more easily than usual.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tell your healthcare team if you have a severe sunburn or skin reaction such as itching, rash, or swelling after sun exposure.</li> <li>Refer to <i>Your Medication Sun Sensitivity and Sunscreens*</i> or the <i>BC Health Guide</i> for more information.</li> </ul>

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

**STOP TAKING AVAPRITINIB AND CHECK WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE TEAM OR GET EMERGENCY HELP IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE:**

- Signs of an **infection** such as fever (over 38°C or 100°F 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 **bleeding problems** such as black or tarry stools, blood in urine, pinpoint red spots on skin, extensive bruising.
- Signs of **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.
- Signs of **heart or lung problems** such as fast or uneven heartbeat, chest pain, chest pressure, shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing, cough, swelling of feet or lower legs, or fainting.

**CHECK WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE TEAM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (DURING OFFICE HOURS) IF YOU HAVE:**

- Signs of **anemia** such as unusual tiredness or weakness.
- Memory loss**, are **feeling confused**, or are having problems with **thinking clearly**.
- Signs of **kidney problems** such as lower back or side pain, swelling of feet or lower legs.

**CHECK WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE TEAM IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONTINUE OR BOTHER YOU:**

- Watery eyes, blurry vision, or changes in eyesight.
- Dizziness.
- Abdominal pain.
- Dry mouth or lips.
- Trouble sleeping.

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