



Provincial Health Services Authority

For the Patient: Alectinib
Other names: ALECENSARO®

- **Alectinib** (al ek' ti nib) is a drug that is used to treat some types of cancer. It is a capsule that you take by mouth. Capsules contain lactose.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to alectinib before taking alectinib.
- **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** alectinib exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the directions.
- **Take** alectinib with food.
- If you **miss a dose** of alectinib, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times.
- If you **vomit** the dose of alectinib, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times. Do not take extra doses to make up for any missed doses. Call your doctor during office hours for advice as a medication to prevent nausea may be required for future doses.
- Other drugs may **interact** with alectinib. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start or stop taking any other drugs.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of alectinib.
- Alectinib may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with alectinib and for at least three months after stopping treatment. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breastfeed during treatment.
- **Store** alectinib capsules 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 alectinib before you receive any treatment from them.

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
Nausea and vomiting may occur after your treatment. Most people have little or no nausea.	You may be given a prescription for antinausea drug(s) to take before your treatment and/or at home. It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred , so follow directions closely. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink plenty of fluids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts. Try the ideas in <i>Practical Tips to Manage Nausea</i> .*
Skin rashes may sometimes occur.	If itching is very irritating, call your doctor. Otherwise, be sure to mention it at your next visit.
Diarrhea may sometimes occur.	If diarrhea is a problem: <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 Choices to Help Manage Diarrhea</i>.* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: If lactose in milk usually gives you diarrhea, the lactose in the capsule may be causing your diarrhea. Take LACTAID® tablets just before your alectinib dose.
Constipation may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise if you can. • Drink plenty of fluids. • Try ideas in <i>Food Choices to Manage Constipation</i>.*
Headache may sometimes occur.	Take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours if needed, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day.
Muscle or joint pain may sometimes occur.	You may take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day or ibuprofen (e.g., ADVIL®) for mild to moderate pain. Tell your doctor if the pain interferes with your activity.
Sugar control may sometimes be affected in diabetic patients.	Check your blood sugar regularly if you are diabetic.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Swelling of hands, feet, or lower legs may sometimes occur if your body retains extra fluid.	If swelling is a problem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevate your feet when sitting. • Avoid tight clothing.
Tiredness and lack of energy may sometimes 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>Fatigue/Tiredness – Patient Handout</i> or <i>Your Bank to Energy Savings: Helping People with Cancer Handle Fatigue</i>.*
Hair loss is rare with alectinib. If you lose hair, it will grow back once you stop treatment with alectinib. Colour and texture may change.	If hair loss is a problem, refer to <i>Resources for Hair Loss and Appearance Changes – Patient Handout</i> .*
Your skin may sunburn more easily than usual.	Refer to <i>Your Medication Sun Sensitivity and Sunscreens*</i> or the <i>BC Health Guide</i> for more information. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After sun exposure, if you have a severe sunburn or skin reaction such as itching, rash, or swelling, contact your doctor.
Eye problems , such as seeing floaters or blurry/double vision sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use caution when driving or operating machinery. • Tell your doctor at your next visit, especially if the changes do not go away or get worse.

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

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

- Signs of **heart or lung problems** such as slow or uneven heartbeat, chest pain, chest pressure, shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing, coughing, dizziness, fainting, or swelling of feet or lower legs.
- Sudden **abdominal pain**.

SEE YOUR DOCTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (DURING OFFICE HOURS) IF YOU HAVE:

- Signs of **anemia** such as unusual tiredness or weakness.
- Signs of **liver problems** such as yellow eyes or skin, white or clay-coloured stools.
- Signs of **kidney problems** such as lower back or side pain, swelling of feet or lower legs.
- **Muscle pain**, spasms or severe muscle weakness.

