



Provincial Health Services Authority

**For the Patient: Binimetinib**  
Other names: MEKTOVI®

- **Binimetinib** (bin i me' ti nib) is a drug that is used to treat some types of cancer. It is a tablet that you take by mouth. The tablet contains lactose.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to binimetinib before taking binimetinib.
- **Blood tests** may be taken regularly during treatment.
- It is important to **take** binimetinib exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the directions.
- You may **take** binimetinib with food or on an empty stomach.
- If you **miss a dose** of binimetinib, take it as soon as you can if it is within 6 hours of the missed dose. If it is more than 6 hours since your missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times. Do not take any doses to make up for the missed dose.
- If you **vomit** the dose of binimetinib, do not take a second dose. Call your doctor during office hours as a medication to prevent nausea may be required for future doses.
- Other drugs may **interact** with binimetinib. 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 binimetinib.
- Binimetinib may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with binimetinib. 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 three days after your last dose.
- **Store** binimetinib 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 binimetinib 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
<b>Nausea</b> and <b>vomiting</b> may occur.	You will 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids.</li> <li>• Eat and drink often in small amounts.</li> </ul> Try the ideas in <i>Practical Tips to Manage Nausea</i> .*
<b>Skin rash, dry skin, and itchiness</b> may sometimes occur.	If very irritating, call your doctor. Otherwise, be sure to mention it at your next visit.
<b>Fever</b> may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day.</li> </ul>
<b>Diarrhea</b> may sometimes occur.	If diarrhea is a problem: <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> <b>Note:</b> If lactose in milk usually gives you diarrhea, the lactose in the tablet may be causing your diarrhea. Take LACTAID® tablets just before your binimetinib dose.
<b>Constipation</b> may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exercise if you can.</li> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids.</li> </ul> Try ideas in <i>Food Choices to Manage Constipation</i> .*
<b>Tiredness</b> and lack of energy may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you are feeling tired.</li> </ul> Try the ideas in <i>Fatigue/Tiredness – Patient Handout</i> .*
<b>Sugar control</b> may sometimes be affected.	Tell your doctor if you are experiencing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased thirst.</li> <li>• Changes in how often you pass urine (go pee).</li> </ul> Check your blood sugar regularly if you are diabetic.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<b>Muscle</b> or <b>joint pain</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 or ibuprofen (e.g., ADVIL®) for mild to moderate pain. Tell your doctor if the pain interferes with your activity.
<b>Swelling</b> 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"> <li>• Elevate your feet when sitting.</li> <li>• Avoid tight clothing.</li> </ul>
<b>Headache</b> may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours if needed, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day.</li> </ul>
<b>Hair loss</b> sometimes occurs with binimetinib. Hair will grow back once you stop treatment with binimetinib. Colour 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</b> or <b>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> </ul> Tell your doctor at your next visit, especially if you have trouble with buttons, writing, or picking up small objects.
A type of <b>skin cancer</b> called cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma may rarely occur.	Check your skin and tell your doctor right away if you notice any skin changes including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a new wart,</li> <li>• a sore or reddish bump that bleeds or does not heal, or</li> <li>• a change in size or color of a mole.</li> </ul> Cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma is usually managed with simple removal (excision). Refer to the <i>BC Health Guide</i> for information about protecting your skin from sun exposure.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p><b>High blood pressure</b> may sometimes occur.</p>	<p>Your blood pressure may be checked during your visits to your doctor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may be asked to check your blood pressure frequently between visits.</li> <li>• Your doctor may give you a prescription for blood pressure medication if your blood pressure is high.</li> </ul> <p>Tell your doctor if you are already on blood pressure medication. Your doctor may have to adjust your dose.</p>

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

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

- Signs of an **allergic reaction** (rare) soon after a treatment including dizziness, fast heartbeat, face swelling, or breathing problems.
- **Changes in eyesight** such as blurred vision, loss of vision, eye pain, seeing halos, or coloured dots.
- Signs of **bleeding problems** such as black, tarry stools; blood in urine; pinpoint red spots on skin; extensive bruising.
- Signs of a **blood clot** such as tenderness or hardness over a vein, calf swelling and tenderness, sudden onset of cough, chest pain, or shortness of breath.
- Severe unexplained **muscle** pain, muscle swelling, or weakness.
- Signs of **heart or lung problems** such as fast or uneven heartbeat, chest pain, chest pressure, shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing, swelling of feet or lower legs, or fainting.
- **Face muscles** that are weak, don't move, or appear to droop.
- Severe **abdominal pain** or tenderness.

**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.
- Signs of **skin changes** such as a new wart, a sore or reddish bump that bleeds or does not heal, or a change in size, shape, or colour of a mole.

