



Provincial Health Services Authority

**For the Patient: Ceritinib**  
Other names: ZYKADIA®

- **Ceritinib** (se ri' ti nib) is a drug that is used to treat some types of cancer. It is a capsule that you take by mouth.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to ceritinib before taking ceritinib.
- **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** ceritinib exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the directions.
- **Take** ceritinib with food.
- If you **miss a dose** of ceritinib, 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 ceritinib, **do not** take a second dose. Call your doctor during office hours for advice as a medication to prevent nausea may be required for future doses.
- Other drugs such as ketoconazole (NIZORAL®) and rifampin (RIFADIN®) may **interact** with ceritinib. [Check with your doctor or pharmacist for further instructions if you are taking drugs to reduce stomach acid such as ranitidine \(ZANTAC®\) or calcium carbonate \(TUMS®\).](#) 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 ceritinib.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of ceritinib.
- Ceritinib may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with ceritinib and for 3 months after stopping treatment. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breastfeed during treatment.

- **Store** ceritinib 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 ceritinib 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
<p><b>Nausea</b> and <b>vomiting</b> may occur after your treatment.</p>	<p>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.</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><b>Skin rashes</b> may sometimes occur.</p>	<p>If very irritating, call your doctor. Otherwise, be sure to mention it at your next visit.</p>
<p><b>Diarrhea</b> commonly occurs.</p>	<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><b>Constipation</b> may sometimes occur.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exercise if you can.</li> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids.</li> <li>• Try ideas in <i>Food Choices to Manage Constipation</i>.*</li> </ul>
<p>Your <b>white blood cells</b> may decrease during your treatment. White blood cells protect your body by fighting bacteria (germs) that cause infection. When they are low, <b>you are at greater risk of having an infection</b>.</p>	<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>• Stop taking ceritinib and call your doctor <b>immediately</b> 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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sugar control</b> may sometimes be affected in diabetics.</p>	<p>Check your blood sugar regularly if you are diabetic.</p>

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<b>Loss of appetite</b> may sometimes occur.	Try the ideas in <i>Food Ideas to Help with Decreased Appetite</i> .*
<b>Tiredness</b> and lack of energy 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> or <i>Your Bank to Energy Savings: Helping People with Cancer Handle Fatigue</i>.*</li> </ul>
<b>Numbness or tingling of the fingers or toes</b> may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be careful when handling items that are sharp, hot, or cold.</li> <li>Tell your doctor at your next visit, especially if you have trouble with buttons, writing, or picking up small objects.</li> </ul>
<b>Slow or abnormal heart rhythm</b> (QT prolongation) rarely occurs.	<p>Minimize your risk of abnormal heart rhythm by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>always checking with your pharmacist and doctor about drug interactions when starting a new medication, herbal product, or supplement.</li> <li>avoiding grapefruit and grapefruit juice.</li> </ul> <p>Tell your doctor <b>immediately</b> or get emergency help if your heart is beating irregularly or fast, or if you feel faint, lightheaded, or dizzy.</p>
<b>Hair loss</b> does not occur with ceritinib.	

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

### STOP TAKING CERITINIB 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, swelling of feet or lower legs, or fainting.
- 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.
- Sudden and severe **abdominal pain**.
- Seizures**.

