



Provincial Health Services Authority

**For the Patient: Dabrafenib**  
Other names: TAFINLAR®

- **Dabrafenib** (da braf' e 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 dabrafenib before taking dabrafenib.
- **Blood tests** may be taken regularly during treatment. The dose and timing of your chemotherapy may be changed based on the test results and/or other side effects.
- It is important to **take** dabrafenib exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the directions.
- **Take** dabrafenib on an empty stomach.
- If you **miss a dose** of dabrafenib, 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.
- If you **vomit** the dose of dabrafenib, skip the dose and go back to your usual dosing times. Do NOT repeat the dose. Let your doctor know as a medication to prevent nausea may be required for future doses.
- Other drugs such as ketoconazole (NIZORAL®) may **interact** with dabrafenib. 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.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of dabrafenib.
- Dabrafenib may cause **sterility** in men. If you plan to have children, discuss this with your doctor before being treated with dabrafenib.
- Dabrafenib may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with dabrafenib and for 4 weeks after treatment. Do NOT use hormonal birth control as it may not work as well while you are taking dabrafenib. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breastfeed during treatment.
- **Store** dabrafenib 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 dabrafenib 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. Most people have little or no nausea.</p>	<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 <a href="#">Practical Tips to Manage Nausea</a>.*</li> </ul>
<p><b>Skin rash, itchiness, dryness, or redness</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>Fever</b> and <b>chills</b> may sometimes occur.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take acetaminophen (e.g., <b>TYLENOL®</b>) every 4-6 hours, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day.</li> <li>• If you have fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer) <b>plus</b> another sign of infection, call your doctor <b>immediately</b>. Other signs of infection include chills, cough, or burning when you pass urine.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Diarrhea</b> may sometimes occur.</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 <a href="#">Food Choices to Help Manage Diarrhea</a>.*</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 <a href="#">Food Choices to Manage Constipation</a>.*</li> </ul>

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p><b>Hand-foot skin reaction</b> may sometimes occur during dabrafenib treatment. The palms of your hands and soles of your feet may tingle, become red, numb, painful, or swollen. Skin may also become dry or itchy. You may not be able to do your normal daily activities if blisters, severe pain, or ulcers occur.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid tight-fitting shoes or rubbing pressure to hands and feet, such as that caused by heavy activity.</li> <li>• Avoid tight-fitting jewellery.</li> <li>• Clean hands and feet with lukewarm water and gently pat to dry; avoid hot water.</li> <li>• Apply a sunscreen with an SPF (sun protection factor) of at least 30.</li> <li>• Apply lanolin-containing creams (e.g., BAG BALM®, UDDERLY SMOOTH®) to hands and feet, liberally and often.</li> <li>• Tell your cancer doctor or your nurse at the next visit if you have any signs of hand-foot skin reaction as your dose may need to be changed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Headache</b> may sometimes occur.</p>	<p>Take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours if needed, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day.</p>
<p><b>Muscle, limb, or joint pain</b> may sometimes occur.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>Sugar control</b> may sometimes be affected in diabetic patients.</p>	<p>Check your blood sugar regularly if you are diabetic.</p>
<p><b>Swelling</b> of hands, feet, or lower legs may sometimes occur if your body retains extra fluid.</p>	<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><b>Loss of appetite</b> may sometimes occur.</p>	<p>Try the ideas in <i>Food Ideas to Help with Decreased Appetite</i>.*</p>
<p><b>Tiredness</b> and lack of energy may sometimes occur.</p>	<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>
<p><b>Hair loss</b> sometimes occurs with dabrafenib.</p>	<p>If hair loss is a problem, refer to <i>Resources for Hair Loss and Appearance Changes – Patient Handout</i>.*</p>

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Your <b>skin may sunburn</b> more easily than usual.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to <i>Your Medication Sun Sensitivity and Sunscreens*</i> or the <i>BC Health Guide</i> for more information.</li> <li>• After sun exposure, if you have a severe sunburn or skin reaction such as itching, rash, or swelling, contact your doctor.</li> </ul>
A type of <b>skin cancer</b> called cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma may occur.	<p>Check your skin and tell your oncologist right away if you notice any skin changes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• new wart</li> <li>• sore or reddish bump that bleeds or does not heal</li> <li>• change in size, shape, or colour of a mole</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma is usually managed with simple removal (excision).</li> </ul>

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

### **STOP TAKING DABRAFENIB 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 **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.
- Severe **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.
- Changes in **eyesight, eye pain, or sensitivity of eyes** to light.
- 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, or thick or rough, scaly patches of the skin.
- **Numbness** or **tingling** in feet or hands.

