



Provincial Health Services Authority

**For the Patient: Dacomitinib**  
Other names: VIZIMPRO®

- **Dacomitinib** (dak" oh mi' 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 dacomitinib before taking dacomitinib.
- **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** dacomitinib exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the directions. You may be given tablets of more than one strength to make the right dose.
- You may **take** dacomitinib with food or on an empty stomach. Take dacomitinib in the same way each day, e.g., always on an empty stomach or always with the same type of meal. Dacomitinib should be taken about the same time each day.
- If you **miss a dose** of dacomitinib, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times.
- If you **vomit** the dose of dacomitinib, skip the vomited dose and go back to your usual dosing times. Let your doctor know as a medication to prevent nausea may be required for future doses.
- Other drugs such as dextromethorphan (Balminil DM®) and rabeprazole (Pariet®) may **interact** with dacomitinib. 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 dacomitinib.
- Dacomitinib may affect **fertility** in men and women. If you plan to have children, discuss this with your doctor before being treated with dacomitinib.
- Dacomitinib may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with dacomitinib and for at least two months after the last dose. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner

becomes pregnant. Do not breastfeed during treatment and for at least two months after the last dose of dacomitinib.

- **Store** dacomitinib 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 dacomitinib 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 and vomiting</b> may occur with dacomitinib. 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> </ul> <p>Try the ideas in <i>Practical Tips to Manage Nausea</i>.*</p>
<p><b>Skin rash and dry or itchy skin</b> commonly occurs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moisturizing creams can help reduce skin dryness.</li> <li>• Avoid hot showers.</li> <li>• Exposure to the sun might make these symptoms worse. Refer to <i>Your Medication Sun Sensitivity and Sunscreens</i>* or the <i>BC Health Guide</i> for more information.</li> </ul> <p>If your symptoms get worse, or are very irritating, call your doctor. Otherwise, be sure to mention it at your next visit.</p>
<p><b>Nail changes</b>, including loosening or loss of the nail, and swelling commonly occur.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid trauma to nails or fingertips.</li> <li>• Avoid harsh soaps, detergents and nail products.</li> <li>• Keep hands clean and dry.</li> </ul> <p>If nail changes interfere with your activity, or are painful, call your doctor. Otherwise, be sure to mention it at your next visit.</p>

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p>Diarrhea commonly occurs.</p>	<p><b>Diarrhea must be treated immediately with loperamide 2 mg tablets (e.g., IMODIUM®):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take <b><i>TWO tablets</i></b> at the first sign of loose or more frequent stools than usual.</li> <li>• Then take <b><i>ONE tablet</i></b> with every loose stool, up to a maximum of ten tablets per day. Continue until diarrhea has stopped for 12 hours.</li> <li>• <b><i>This dose is much higher than the package directions. It is very important that you take this higher dose to stop the diarrhea.</i></b></li> <li>• Always keep a supply of loperamide (e.g., have 48 tablets at home). You can buy loperamide at any pharmacy without a prescription.</li> <li>• To help diarrhea: <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> <li>▪ A dietitian can give you more suggestions for dealing with diarrhea.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• If diarrhea does not improve 24 hours after starting loperamide or lasts more than 48 hours, call your doctor.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> If lactose in milk usually gives you diarrhea, the lactose in the dacomitinib tablet may make it worse. Take LACTAID® tablets just before your dacomitinib dose.</p>

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p><b>Sore mouth</b> commonly occurs a few days after treatment. Mouth sores can occur on the tongue, the sides of the mouth, or in the throat. <b>Mouth sores or bleeding gums can lead to an infection.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brush your teeth gently after eating and at bedtime with a very soft toothbrush. If your gums bleed, use gauze instead of a brush. Use baking soda instead of toothpaste.</li> <li>• Make a mouthwash with ¼ teaspoon baking soda AND ¼ teaspoon salt in 1 cup warm water and rinse several times a day.</li> <li>• Try the ideas in <i>Food Ideas to Try with a Sore Mouth</i>.*</li> </ul>
<p><b>Hand-foot skin reaction</b> may sometimes occur during dacomitinib 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>Muscle, back or limb 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 have diabetes.</p>
<p>You may sometimes have <b>trouble sleeping</b>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk to your doctor if you continue to have trouble sleeping.</li> <li>• This will return to normal when you stop taking dacomitinib.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Loss of appetite and weight loss</b> sometimes occur.</p>	<p>Try the ideas in <i>Food Ideas to Help with Decreased Appetite</i>.*</p>

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<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> <li>• Try the ideas in <i>Fatigue/Tiredness – Patient Handout</i>.*</li> </ul>
<b>Hair loss</b> sometimes occurs with dacomitinib. Hair will grow back once you stop treatment with dacomitinib. Colour and texture may change.	If hair loss is a problem, refer to <i>Resources for Hair Loss and Appearance Changes – Patient Handout</i> .*

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

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

- Signs of **lung problems** such as chest pain, chest pressure, shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing, or fainting.

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

- Signs of **anemia** such as unusual tiredness or weakness.
- **Diarrhea** that does not improve with loperamide.
- Signs of **liver problems** such as yellow eyes or skin, white or clay-coloured stools.
- **Eye pain**, sensitivity to light, swelling, red or itchy eyes, or blurry vision.
- Severe **skin reaction**, including the areas around the nails, that is painful, red, swollen, or peeling.
- Increased **sore throat or mouth** that makes it difficult to swallow comfortably.

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

- Redness, swelling, pain, or sores on your lips, tongue, mouth, or throat.
- Dry cough that does not go away.
- For patients with diabetes: uncontrolled blood sugars.

**REPORT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS TO YOUR DOCTOR**

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