



Provincial Health Services Authority

**For the Patient: Encorafenib**  
Other names: BRAFTOVI®

- **Encorafenib** (en" koe raf' 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 encorafenib before taking encorafenib.
- **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** encorafenib exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the directions.
- You may **take** encorafenib with food or on an empty stomach.
- If you **miss a dose** of encorafenib, 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. Do NOT take a double dose to make up for the missed dose.
- If you **vomit** the dose of encorafenib, do not take a second dose. Skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing time. Call your healthcare team during office hours for advice as a medication to prevent nausea may be required for future doses.
- Other drugs such as diltiazem (CARDIZEM®) and posaconazole (POSANOL®) may **interact** with encorafenib. 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 encorafenib.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of encorafenib.
- Encorafenib may affect **fertility** in men. If you plan to have children, discuss this with your doctor before being treated with encorafenib.

- Encorafenib may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with encorafenib. Do NOT use hormonal birth control as it may not work as well while you are taking encorafenib. 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 two weeks after your last dose.
- **Store** capsules out of the reach of children, at room temperature, and away from heat, light, and moisture. Keep capsules in the original bottle and do not remove the desiccant.
- **Tell** your doctor, dentist, and other health professionals that you are being treated with encorafenib 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. If you are vomiting and it is not controlled, you can quickly become dehydrated.	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. <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> Tell your healthcare team if nausea or vomiting continues or is not controlled with your antinausea drug(s).
<b>Skin rash, acne, itchiness, dryness, or redness</b> may sometimes occur.	If very irritating, call your healthcare team. 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 you have diarrhea and it is not controlled, you can quickly become dehydrated.	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> Tell your healthcare team if you have diarrhea for more than 24 hours.

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<b>Constipation</b> may sometimes occur.	<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>
<b>Sugar control</b> may sometimes be affected.	<p>Tell your healthcare team if you are experiencing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased thirst.</li> <li>Changes in how often you pass urine (go pee).</li> </ul> <p>Check your blood sugar regularly if you have diabetes.</p>
<b>Hand-foot skin reaction</b> may sometimes occur. 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.	<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> </ul> <p>Tell your healthcare team at your next visit if you have any signs of hand-foot skin reaction as your dose may need to be changed.</p>
<b>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 or doctor about drug interactions when starting a new medication, herbal product, or supplement.</li> <li>avoiding grapefruit and grapefruit juice.</li> </ul> <p>Get emergency help <b>immediately</b> if your heart is beating irregularly or fast OR if you feel faint, lightheaded, or dizzy.</p>

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Minor bleeding, such as <b>nosebleeds</b> , may occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sit up straight and tip your head slightly forward. Tilting your head back may cause blood to run down your throat.</li> <li>• Pinch your nostrils shut between your thumb and forefinger or apply firm pressure against the bleeding nostril for 10 full minutes.</li> <li>• After 10 minutes, check to see if your nose is still bleeding. If it is, hold it for 10 more minutes.</li> <li>• Stay quiet for a few hours and do not blow your nose for at least 12 hours after the bleeding has stopped.</li> </ul> <p>Get emergency help if a nosebleed lasts longer than 20 minutes.</p>
<b>Headache</b> may sometimes occur.	Take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours if needed, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day.
<b>Muscle or 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 healthcare team 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.	<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>
<b>Taste alteration</b> may sometimes occur.	Try the ideas in <i>Food Ideas to Cope with Taste and Smell Changes.*</i>
<b>You may sometimes have trouble sleeping.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell your healthcare team if you continue to have trouble sleeping.</li> <li>• This will return to normal when you stop taking encorafenib.</li> </ul>
<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 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>

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<b>Hair loss</b> sometimes occurs with encorafenib. Hair will grow back once you stop treatment with encorafenib. 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 or 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> <li>• Be careful when walking on uneven surfaces or doing activities that need you to balance or be steady.</li> <li>• Tell your healthcare team at your next visit, especially if you have trouble with buttons, writing, picking up small objects, walking, or have fallen.</li> </ul>
<b>Your skin may sunburn</b> more easily than usual.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell your healthcare team if you have a severe sunburn or skin reaction such as itching, rash, or swelling after sun exposure.</li> </ul> <p>Refer to <i>Your Medication Sun Sensitivity and Sunscreens*</i> or the <i>BC Health Guide</i> for more information.</p>
A type of <b>skin cancer</b> called cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma may rarely occur.	<p>Check your skin and tell your healthcare team right away if you notice any skin changes including:</p> <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> <p>Cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma is usually managed with simple removal (excision).</p> <p>Refer to the <i>BC Health Guide</i> for information about protecting your skin from sun exposure.</p>

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<b>High blood pressure</b> may sometimes occur.	<p>Your blood pressure may be checked by your healthcare team during your visit.</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> <li>• Tell your doctor if you are already on blood pressure medication. Your doctor may have to adjust your dose.</li> </ul>

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

#### **STOP TAKING ENCORAFENIB AND CHECK WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE TEAM OR GET EMERGENCY HELP IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE:**

- Signs of an **allergic reaction** (rare) including dizziness, fast heartbeat, face swelling, or breathing problems.
- **Changes in eyesight** such as blurred vision, loss of vision, seeing halos or coloured dots or you have eye pain.
- Signs of **bleeding problems** such as black and/or tarry stools, blood in urine, pinpoint red spots on skin, or 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.
- 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.

#### **CHECK WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE TEAM 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.
- Severe **abdominal pain** or tenderness.

#### **CHECK WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE TEAM IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONTINUE OR BOTHER YOU:**

- Thickening of the outer layers of the skin.
- Uncontrolled nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- Muscle weakness.
- For patients with diabetes: uncontrolled blood sugars.

**REPORT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS TO YOUR DOCTOR**