



Provincial Health Services Authority

For the Patient: Lenvatinib
Other names: LENVIMA®

- **Lenvatinib** (len va' 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 lenvatinib before taking lenvatinib.
- **Blood tests, urine tests, and blood pressure measurements** 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** lenvatinib exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the directions. You may be given capsules of more than one strength to make the right dose.
- You may **take** lenvatinib with food or on an empty stomach.
- If you **miss a dose** of lenvatinib, 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 lenvatinib within 30 minutes of taking it, repeat the dose. Let your doctor know as a medication to prevent nausea may be required for future doses.
- Other drugs may **interact** with lenvatinib. 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 lenvatinib.
- Lenvatinib may decrease **fertility** in men and women. If you plan to have children, discuss this with your doctor before being treated with lenvatinib.
- Lenvatinib may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with lenvatinib and for one month after your last treatment. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breastfeed during treatment.
- **Store** lenvatinib capsules out of the reach of children, at room temperature, away from heat, light, and moisture. Keep capsules in original blister card packaging until needed.

- **Tell** doctors, dentists, and other health professionals that you are being treated with lenvatinib before you receive any treatment from them.
- If you are planning to have **surgery**, you should stop lenvatinib before surgery and not restart lenvatinib after surgery until the surgical wound is fully healed. This helps to lower the risk of bleeding and may prevent problems with wound healing after surgery.

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
Nausea and vomiting may sometimes occur.	You will be given a prescription for antinausea drug(s) to take at home. It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred , so follow directions closely. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink plenty of fluids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts. • Try the ideas in Practical Tips to Manage Nausea.*
Skin rashes may sometimes occur.	If the rash is very irritating, call your doctor. Otherwise, be sure to mention it at your next visit.
Minor bleeding, such as nosebleeds , may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sit up straight and tip your head slightly forward. Tilting your head back may cause blood to run down your throat. • Pinch your nostrils shut between your thumb and forefinger or apply firm pressure against the bleeding nostril for 10 full minutes. • After 10 minutes, check to see if your nose is still bleeding. If it is, hold it for 10 more minutes. • Stay quiet for a few hours and do not blow your nose for at least 12 hours after the bleeding has stopped. • Get emergency help if a nosebleed lasts longer than 20 minutes.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Diarrhea commonly occurs.	If diarrhea is a problem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink plenty of fluids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts. • Avoid high fibre foods as outlined in Food Choices to Help Manage Diarrhea.* • Call your doctor. Another medication may be recommended to help control your diarrhea or you may be asked to temporarily stop lenvatinib.
Constipation may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise if you can. • Drink plenty of fluids. • Try ideas in Food Choices to Manage Constipation.*
Your platelets may decrease while on lenvatinib. Platelets help to make your blood clot when you hurt yourself. You may bruise or bleed more easily than usual.	To help prevent bleeding problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try not to bruise, cut, or burn yourself. • Clean your nose by blowing gently. Do not pick your nose. • Avoid constipation. • Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush as your gums may bleed more easily. Maintain good oral hygiene. Some medications such as ASA (e.g., ASPIRIN®) or ibuprofen (e.g., ADVIL®) may increase your risk of bleeding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not stop taking any medication that has been prescribed by your doctor (e.g., ASA for your heart). • For minor pain, try acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) first, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day, but occasional use of ibuprofen may be acceptable.
High blood pressure commonly occurs. This can happen very quickly after starting treatment.	Your blood pressure may be checked during your visits to your doctor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may be asked to check your blood pressure frequently between visits. • Your doctor may give you medication if your blood pressure is high. • Tell your doctor if you are already on blood pressure medication. Your doctor may have to adjust your dose.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p>Abnormal heart rhythm (QT prolongation) rarely occurs.</p>	<p>Minimize your risk of abnormal heart rhythm by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always checking with your pharmacist and doctor about drug interactions when starting a new medication, herbal product, or supplement. • Tell your doctor <i>immediately</i> or get emergency help if your heart is beating irregularly or fast, or if you feel faint, lightheaded, or dizzy.
<p>Sore mouth may sometimes occur. Mouth sores can occur on the tongue, the sides of the mouth, or in the throat. Mouth sores or bleeding gums can lead to an infection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Make a mouthwash with ¼ teaspoon baking soda AND ¼ teaspoon salt in 1 cup warm water and rinse several times a day. • Try the ideas in Food Ideas to Try with a Sore Mouth.*
<p>Hand-foot skin reaction may sometimes occur during lenvatinib 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"> • Avoid tight-fitting shoes or rubbing pressure to hands and feet, such as that caused by heavy activity. • Avoid tight-fitting jewellery. • Clean hands and feet with lukewarm water and gently pat to dry; avoid hot water. • Apply lanolin-containing creams (e.g., BAG BALM®, UDDERLY SMOOTH®) to hands and feet, liberally and often. • 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.
<p>Headache 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>Back, muscle, or joint pain 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.</p>

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Swelling 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"> • Elevate your feet when sitting. • Avoid tight clothing.
You may sometimes have trouble sleeping .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to your doctor if you continue to have trouble sleeping. • This will return to normal when you stop taking lenvatinib.
Taste alteration may sometimes occur.	Try the ideas in <i>Food Ideas to Cope with Taste and Smell Changes</i> .*
Loss of appetite and weight loss are common.	Try the ideas in <i>Food Ideas to Help with Decreased Appetite</i> .*
Tiredness and lack of energy may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you are feeling tired. • Try the ideas in <i>Fatigue/Tiredness – Patient Handout</i> OR <i>Your Bank to Energy Savings: Helping People with Cancer Handle Fatigue</i>.*
Hair loss sometimes occurs with lenvatinib. Hair will grow back once you stop treatment with lenvatinib.	If hair loss is a problem, refer to <i>Resources for Hair Loss and Appearance Changes – Patient Handout</i> .*
Blood clots may rarely occur. Signs to watch for include tenderness or hardness over a vein, calf tenderness, sudden onset of cough, chest pain, or shortness of breath.	To help prevent blood clots: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep active. • Drink plenty of fluids. • Avoid tight clothing. • Do not sit with your legs crossed at the knees.

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

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

- Signs of a **stroke** such as sudden onset of severe headache, eyesight changes, slurred speech, loss of coordination, weakness or numbness in arm or leg.
- 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 **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, chest pain, chest pressure, shortness of breath, swelling of feet or lower legs, or fainting.
- Severe **headache** that does not go away, or occurs with vomiting, confusion, seizures, or changes in eyesight.
- Sudden **abdominal pain** or tenderness.
- Uncontrolled **nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea**.

