



Provincial Health Services Authority

**For the Patient: Vandetanib**  
Other names: CAPRELSA®

- **Vandetanib** (van det' a 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 vandetanib before taking vandetanib.
- **Blood 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** vandetanib exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the directions.
- You may **take** vandetanib with food or on an empty stomach.
- If you **miss a dose** of vandetanib, 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 vandetanib 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 such as itraconazole (SPORONOX®), rifampin (RIFADIN®), metformin (GLUCOPHAGE®), and digoxin (LANOXIN®) may **interact** with vandetanib. 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 vandetanib.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of vandetanib.
- Vandetanib may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with vandetanib. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breastfeed during treatment.

- **Store** vandetanib 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 vandetanib before you receive any treatment from them.
- If you are planning to have **surgery**, you should stop taking vandetanib before surgery and not restart vandetanib after surgery until you have discussed it with your oncologist. 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
<b>Nausea</b> and <b>vomiting</b> may sometimes occur. Most people have little or no nausea.	You may be given a prescription for anti-nausea 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> </ul> Try the ideas in <a href="#">Practical Tips to Manage Nausea</a> .*
<b>Skin rash, acne</b> , and <b>dry, itchy skin</b> commonly occur.	If your symptoms don't go away or get worse, call your doctor. Otherwise, be sure to mention it at your next visit.
Your <b>skin may sunburn</b> more easily than usual.	Refer to <i>Your Medication Sun Sensitivity and Sunscreens*</i> or the <i>BC Health Guide</i> for more information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After sun exposure, if you have a severe sunburn or skin reaction such as itching, rash, or swelling, contact your doctor.</li> </ul>
<b>Diarrhea</b> may commonly occur	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 <a href="#">Food Choices to Help Manage Diarrhea</a>.*</li> <li>• Call your doctor. Another medication may be recommended to help control your diarrhea or you may be asked to temporarily stop vandetanib.</li> </ul>

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<b>Abnormal heart rhythm</b> (QT prolongation) sometimes occurs.	Minimize your risk of abnormal heart rhythm by: <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>• 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.</li> </ul>
<b>High blood pressure</b> sometimes occurs. This can happen very quickly after starting treatment.	Your blood pressure may be checked during your visits by your doctor. <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 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>
<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>Sugar control</b> may sometimes be affected in diabetic patients.	Check your blood sugar regularly if you are diabetic.
<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> OR <i>Your Bank to Energy Savings: Helping People with Cancer Handle Fatigue</i>.*</li> </ul>
<b>Hair loss</b> is rare with vandetanib. If you lose hair, it will grow back once you stop treatment with vandetanib. 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.

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**STOP TAKING VANDETANIB 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 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 or lung problems** such as fast or uneven heartbeat, chest pain, chest pressure, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing, 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**.

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

- Signs of **liver problems** such as yellow eyes or skin, white or clay-coloured stools.
- **Painful, red, or swollen** palms of the hands, nails, or soles of the feet.

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

- Headache not controlled with acetaminophen (e.g., **TYLENOL®**).
- Unusual tiredness or weakness.
- Taste changes, heart burn, or dry mouth.
- Changes in eyesight.
- Muscle spasms.
- Unusual mood changes.
- For diabetic patients: uncontrolled blood sugars.

**REPORT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS TO YOUR DOCTOR**

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