



**For the Patient: Lapatinib tablets**  
Other names: TYKERB®

- **Lapatinib** (la pa' 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 lapatinib before taking lapatinib.
- **Blood tests** may be taken regularly during treatment. The dose of lapatinib may be changed based on the test results and/or other side effects.
- It is important to **take** lapatinib exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the directions.
- Take lapatinib only on an **empty stomach** (one hour before or one hour after food). Do NOT take with food.
- If you **miss a dose** of lapatinib, skip the missed dose and continue at the time of your next usual dosing time. Don't take any doses to make up for the missed dose.
- If you **vomit** the dose of lapatinib 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 esomeprazole \(NEXIUM®\)](#) may **interact** with lapatinib. 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 lapatinib.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of lapatinib.
- Lapatinib may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with lapatinib. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breast feed during treatment.
- **Store** lapatinib 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 lapatinib 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 lapatinib. 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. Make sure you are still taking your lapatinib on an empty stomach (one hour before or one hour after food).</li> <li>• Try the ideas in <i>Food Choices to Help Control Nausea</i>.*</li> </ul>
<p><b>Skin reactions</b> such as rash, dryness, and itchiness sometimes occur.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moisturizing creams can help reduce skin dryness.</li> <li>• Avoid direct sunlight and tanning salons during treatment.</li> <li>• Wear a hat, long sleeves, and long pants outside on sunny days.</li> <li>• Wear a sunscreen that blocks both UVA and UVB and has a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 30. Apply liberally, 30 minutes before exposure. Reapply every 2 hours and after swimming.</li> <li>• 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 skin reaction doesn't go away or gets worse, call your doctor. Otherwise, be sure to mention it at your next visit.</p>

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<b>Diarrhea</b> commonly occurs.	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 Food Ideas to Help with Diarrhea During Chemotherapy.*</li> <li>• Call your doctor. Another medication may be recommended to help control your diarrhea or you may be asked to temporarily stop lapatinib.</li> </ul>
<b>Fatigue</b> (tiredness) and lack of energy sometimes occurs.	<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>Your Bank to Energy Savings: How People with Cancer Can Handle Fatigue</i>.*</li> </ul>
<b>Back pain</b> sometimes occurs.	You may take acetaminophen (e.g., <b>TYLENOL®</b> ) every 4-6 hours to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day or ibuprofen (e.g., <b>ADVIL®</b> ) for mild to moderate pain. Tell your doctor if the pain interferes with your activity.
<b>Hair loss</b> does not occur with lapatinib.	
<b>Abnormal heart rhythm</b> (QT prolongation) rarely 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>• always taking lapatinib on an empty stomach (not with food)</li> <li>• avoiding grapefruit and grapefruit juice</li> </ul>

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

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

- Signs of an **allergic reaction** (rare) soon after a treatment including skin rash (itchy bumpy rash), fainting, face swelling, or breathing problems.
- Signs of **heart or lung problems** such as fast or uneven heartbeat, dizziness, fainting, seizures, chest pain, chest pressure, shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing, or swelling of feet or lower legs.

