

ORAL CANCER TREATMENT EDUCATION



PASSION FOR PATIENTS
NCODA.ORG



LAPATINIB

Name of your medication

Generic name — lapatinib (luh-PA-tih-nib)
Brand name — Tykerb® (TY-kerb)

Common uses

Lapatinib is used in combination to treat advanced or metastatic breast cancer that overexpresses human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) receptor. It is used in combination with capecitabine or letrozole.

Lapatinib may also be used for other treatments.

Dose and schedule

Taking lapatinib as instructed is important to allow your treatment to be as effective as possible, so here are some key points to remember.

- Your dose may vary, but the usual dose of lapatinib is from 1,250 milligrams (1,250 mg) to 1,500 milligrams (1,500 mg) to be taken by mouth at a scheduled time once a day.
 - Dividing the daily dose is not recommended.
- Lapatinib should be taken on an empty stomach (at least 1 hour before or 1 hour after a meal or snack) at the same time each day.
- Lapatinib should be taken whole and not crushed, cut, or dissolved. If you are unable to swallow lapatinib, talk to your care provider or pharmacist for possible options.
- If you miss a dose of lapatinib, **do not** take an extra dose or two doses at one time. Simply take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Be sure to write down if you miss a dose and let your care provider know about any missed doses.

Drug and food interactions

- Lapatinib has many drug interactions. Inform your care providers of all prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, vitamins, and herbal products.
- Grapefruit or grapefruit juice may interact with lapatinib, so avoid eating or drinking these during treatment with lapatinib.
- Talk with your care provider or pharmacist before taking new medications or supplements or receiving any vaccines.

ORAL CANCER TREATMENT EDUCATION



PASSION FOR PATIENTS
NCODA.ORG



LAPATINIB

Storage and handling

Handle lapatinib with care. Just like when chemotherapy is given into the vein, this drug can be toxic, and exposure of the drug to others should be limited.

- Store lapatinib at room temperature (59°F–86°F) in a dry location away from light.
- Keep lapatinib out of reach of children and pets.
- Leave lapatinib in the provided packaging until it is ready to be taken.
- Whenever possible, you should give lapatinib to yourself and follow the steps below. If a family member, friend, or caregiver needs to give the lapatinib to you, they also need to follow these steps:
 1. Wash hands with soap and water.
 2. Put on gloves to avoid touching the medication. (Gloves are not necessary if you give the drug to yourself.)
 3. Gently transfer the lapatinib from its package to a small medicine or other disposable cup.
 4. Administer the medicine immediately by mouth with water.
 5. Remove gloves and do not use them for anything else.
 6. Throw gloves and medicine cup in household trash.
 7. Wash hands with soap and water.
- If a daily pill box or pill reminder will be used, contact your care team before using:
 - The person filling the box or reminder should wear gloves (gloves are not necessary if you are filling the box or reminder).
 - When empty, the box or reminder should be washed with soap and water before refilling. Be sure to wash hands with soap and water after the task is complete, whether or not gloves are worn.
- If you have any unused lapatinib, **do not** throw it in the trash and **do not** flush it down the sink or toilet. Talk to your care provider or pharmacist about proper disposal of lapatinib.
- If you are traveling, put your lapatinib's packaging in a sealed plastic bag. Ask your pharmacist if any additional travel precautions are needed.

ORAL CANCER TREATMENT EDUCATION



PASSION FOR PATIENTS
NCODA.ORG



LAPATINIB

Side Effects of Lapatinib

Common side effects that have been known to happen in about one third or more of patients taking lapatinib are listed on the left side of this table. You **MAY NOT** experience these side effects. Options to help manage any side effects that do occur are included on the right side of this table. These should be discussed with your care provider. If you experience any side effect you cannot manage or that is not listed here, contact your care provider

Possible Side Effect	Management
Diarrhea (loose and/or urgent bowel movements)	<p>Monitor how many bowel movements you have each day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink 8–10 glasses of water or fluid each day unless your care provider has instructed you to limit your fluid intake. • Eat small, frequent meals throughout the day rather than a few large meals. • Eat bland, low-fiber foods (e.g., bananas, applesauce, potatoes, chicken, rice, toast). • Avoid high-fiber foods (e.g., raw vegetables, raw fruits, whole grains). • Avoid foods that cause gas (e.g., broccoli, beans). • Avoid lactose-containing foods (e.g., yogurt, milk). • Avoid spicy, fried, and greasy foods. <p>Contact your provider if any of the following occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of bowel movements you have in a day increases by 4 or more. • You feel dizzy or lightheaded. <p>Your care provider may recommend an over-the-counter medication called loperamide (Imodium®) to help with your diarrhea, but talk to your care provider before starting this medication.</p>
Decreased hemoglobin, part of the red blood cells that carry iron and oxygen	<p>Your hemoglobin should be monitored by a simple blood test. When your hemoglobin is low, you may notice that you get tired or fatigued more easily.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try to get 7–8 hours of sleep per night. • Avoid operating heavy machinery if you feel too tired. • Find a balance between work and rest. • Stay as active as possible, but know that it is okay to rest, too. • You might notice that you are more pale than usual. <p>Let your healthcare provider know right away if you experience any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortness of breath • Dizziness • Palpitations
Changes in liver function	<p>Your liver function will be checked periodically by a simple blood test. Contact your care provider if you notice any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowing of the skin or whites of your eyes • Dark or brown urine • Bleeding or bruising

Continued on the next page

ORAL CANCER TREATMENT EDUCATION



PASSION FOR PATIENTS
NCODA.ORG



LAPATINIB

Possible Side Effect	Management
<p>Pain or discomfort on hands and/or feet</p>	<p>Hand-and-foot syndrome (HFS) is a skin reaction that appears on the palms of the hands and soles of the feet. It can appear as a rash, peeling skin, or a “pins and needles” sensation. Let your care provider know right away if you experience this side effect. To prevent HFS, you can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep hands and feet moisturized with a non-fragranced moisturizing cream. Urea 10% or 20% cream may be helpful. • Avoid exposure to hot water on the hands and feet in showers, baths, or while doing dishes. • Avoid tight-fitting shoes or socks. • Avoid excess rubbing on hands and feet unless putting on lotion. • Wear gloves when working with your hands.
<p>Rash or itchy skin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep your skin moisturized with creams and moisturizing lotions to decrease the risk of rash or itchiness, and wear loose-fitting clothing. • Avoid using perfumes and cologne as these products may increase rash symptoms. • Avoid being in the heat for long periods of time. • Your provider may recommend an over-the-counter antihistamine or a topical cream. • Sunlight can make symptoms worse. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid sun exposure as much as possible to decrease the risk of sunburn. The highest exposure to UV (ultraviolet) radiation occurs from 10 am to 4 pm. • Wear long-sleeved clothing, with UV protection if possible. • Wear broad-brimmed hats. • Apply broad-spectrum sunscreen (UVA/UVB) with at least SPF 30 as often as directed on the bottle. • Use lip balm that has at least SPF 30. <p>If your rash or itching continues to worsen, contact your care provider.</p>
<p>Nausea or vomiting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eat and drink slowly. • Drink 8–10 glasses of water or fluid each day unless your care provider has instructed you to limit your fluid intake. • Eat small, frequent meals throughout the day rather than a few large meals. • Eat bland foods. Avoid spicy, fried, and greasy foods. • Avoid vigorous exercise immediately after eating. • Don't lay down immediately after eating. • Avoid strong odors. <p>Let your provider know if you experience nausea or vomiting. Your provider may prescribe medication to help with the nausea or vomiting.</p>

ORAL CANCER TREATMENT EDUCATION



PASSION FOR PATIENTS
NCODA.ORG



LAPATINIB

Serious side effects

- Lapatinib can make your heart work harder to pump blood to the rest of your body. Notify your care team if you are having shortness of breath or chest pain.
- Lapatinib may be harmful to your liver. Speak to your care provider to know when you need to have laboratory tests done to monitor your liver function. If you get this side effect, your doctor may change your dose or stop treatment for some time.
- Lapatinib may cause your lung tissue to scar, which is called interstitial lung disease. Call your care team if you are feeling short of breath, have a fever, or have a lasting dry cough.
- Lapatinib may cause a condition called QT or QTc prolongation, which is a heart rhythm that can cause fast, irregular heartbeats. These fast heartbeats may cause you to faint or have a seizure. In rare cases, this could be life-threatening. Tell your care team right away if you feel faint, lightheaded, dizzy, or if you feel your heart beating irregularly or fast, while taking lapatinib.
- Rarely, lapatinib can cause severe skin reactions, including Stevens-Johnson syndrome, which can be life-threatening. Seek emergency care if you have a severe rash or a rash on your mouth, eyes, or genitals.

If you experience ANY uncontrolled side effect, call your physician or healthcare center immediately:

(INSTITUTIONAL CONTACT INFO)

Handling body fluids and waste

Lapatinib remains in your body for several days after it is taken, so some of the drug may be present in urine, stool, sweat, or vomit. Once you have started to take lapatinib, it is important to follow the instructions below every day for as long as your treatment lasts. This will keep yourself, loved ones, and the environment as safe as possible.

- Pregnant women should avoid touching anything that may be soiled with body fluids from the patient.
- Toilet and septic systems
 - You may use the same toilet, septic tank, and/or sewer that you usually use. If you have a low-flow toilet, close the lid and flush twice to ensure all waste has been discarded.
 - If the toilet or toilet seat becomes soiled with urine, stool, or vomit, clean the surfaces before other people use the toilet.
 - Wash hands with soap and water after using the toilet.
- If you need a bedpan, be sure your caregiver knows to wear gloves to assist with cleanup and to wash the bedpan with soap and water every day.
- If you do not have good control of bladder or bowels, use a disposable pad with a plastic back, a diaper, or a sheet to absorb body waste.
- Wash any skin that has been exposed to body waste or lapatinib with soap and water.
- Linens or clothing that are soiled with body fluids or body waste should be washed separately from other linens and clothing. If you do not have a washer, place the soiled linens in a plastic bag until they can be washed.
- Wash hands with soap and water after touching linens or clothing that may be soiled with body fluids.

ORAL CANCER TREATMENT EDUCATION



PASSION FOR PATIENTS
NCODA.ORG



LAPATINIB

Pregnancy, sexual activity, and contraception

- Women should not become pregnant and men should not get a partner pregnant while taking lapatinib. Men and women of childbearing age and potential should use effective contraception during therapy and for 1 week after the last dose of lapatinib.
- Effective contraception could include 1 or more of the following: oral contraceptive, barrier methods, etc.
- Do not breastfeed while taking lapatinib and for 1 week after the last dose of lapatinib.
- Inform your care provider if you become pregnant.
- It is safe to hug and kiss, but special precautions may be needed for sexual activity while on oral chemotherapy. You are encouraged to talk to your care provider.

Obtaining medication

- Talk with your care provider about how to obtain your lapatinib.

_____ (PHARMACY OR SPECIALTY PHARMACY CONTACT INFO)

Additional resources

Product prescribing information: www.pharma.us.novartis.com/sites/www.pharma.us.novartis.com/files/tykerb.pdf

Updated – January 10, 2025

Additional instructions

Important notice: The Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC), Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA), National Community Oncology Dispensing Association, Inc. (NCODA), and Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) have collaborated in gathering information for and developing this patient education guide. This guide represents a brief summary of the medication derived from information provided by the drug manufacturer and other resources. This guide does not cover all existing information related to the possible uses, directions, doses, precautions, warnings, interactions, adverse effects, or risks associated with this medication and should not substitute for the advice of a qualified healthcare professional. Provision of this guide is for informational purposes only and does not constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation, or favoring of this medication by ACCC, HOPA, NCODA, or ONS, who assume no liability for and cannot ensure the accuracy of the information presented. The collaborators are not making any representations with respect to the medications whatsoever, and any and all decisions, with respect to such medications, are at the sole risk of the individual consuming the medication. All decisions related to taking this medication should be made with the guidance and under the direction of a qualified healthcare professional.

Permission: Oral Cancer Treatment Education (OCE) sheets are provided as a free educational resource for patients with cancer in need of concise, easy-to-understand information about oral cancer drugs. Healthcare providers are permitted to copy and distribute the sheets to patients as well as direct patients to the OCE website for information. However, commercial reproduction or reuse, as well as rebranding or reposting of any type, are strictly prohibited without permission of the copyright holder. Please email permission requests and licensing inquiries to Contact@NCODA.org.

Copyright © 2025 by Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association. All rights reserved.