

LAPATINIB

(la-PA-ti-nib)

Other name: Tykerb ®

Appearance: Oval tablet - 250mg in yellow

Why it is used

- For treating breast cancer

Before taking it

- Tell your doctor if you have / have had heart problems (including any family history or irregular heartbeat), abnormal electrolytes, lung or liver problems, recent diarrhea, or any allergies.

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

- Do not use Lapatinib if you are pregnant. If there is ANY chance that you or your partner may become pregnant, you and your partner together must:
 - ✓ **Use 2 effective forms of birth control at the same time** while taking Lapatinib. Keep using birth control for at least **6 months** after the last dose (general recommendation).
- Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant.
- Do not breastfeed while taking Lapatinib.

How to take it

- Lapatinib is taken by mouth once a day.
- Swallow whole with a large glass of water on an empty stomach, at least one hour before or at least one hour after a low-fat meal.
- Do not take with meals as this may increase side effects.
- Do not make up the missed dose for the day; take your next scheduled dose on the following day.

While taking it

- Avoid grapefruit or grapefruit juice while taking Lapatinib.
- Other drugs can affect blood levels of Lapatinib. Make sure that your doctor and pharmacist have a complete list and any new changes of all your medicines and supplements. These also include non-prescriptions, vitamins and herbals. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting or stopping any medicines / supplements.

*Additional symptom control information can be found at:

<http://www.cancercare.on.ca/toolbox/drugs/patientdruginfo/symptomcontrol/>

Download the most updated version from <http://www.cancercare.on.ca/cms/One.aspx?portalId=1377&pageId=11759>

Information presented here are events likely to take place, but some events may have been excluded.

This information sheet is only intended to be a supplement to the information provided by your healthcare provider.

For more information on this medication, please call your oncologist, pharmacist or nurse.

Prepared by the Cancer Care Ontario-Medication Information Sheets Working Group.

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Safety

- Store at room temperature, away from heat, light or moisture. Keep out of reach of children and pets.
- Do not dispose of any unused drugs at home. Bring them to your pharmacy for safe disposal.

Side effects and what to do

	Get emergency medical help right away	Contact doctor		What to do
		As soon as possible (office hours)	Does not improve or if severe	
More common side effects				
Rash Dry, itchy skin			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay out of the sun. • Wear a hat; cover exposed skin. • Use sunblock and daily moisturizer.
Diarrhea			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink plenty of fluids. Limit hot, spicy, fried foods, foods/drinks with caffeine, orange or prune juice. • Try the BRAT diet (Bananas, Rice, Apple sauce, Toast). • Take anti-diarrhea drug(s) if given to you by your doctor. • Also see Diarrhea pamphlet.*
Nausea and vomiting (generally mild)			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink clear fluids and avoid large meals. Get fresh air and rest. • Limit spicy, fried foods or foods with a strong smell. • Take anti-nausea drug(s) if given to you by your doctor. • Phone your doctor as soon as possible if you have vomited several times a day and if nausea has lasted more than 24 hours. • Also see Nausea & Vomiting pamphlet.*
Pains or cramps in the belly			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat constipation or diarrhea
Poor appetite Not feel like eating			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eat foods that you like and try to eat regular small meals. • Use meal supplements if possible. See a dietitian.

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		As soon as possible (office hours)	Does not improve or if severe	
More common side effects (continued)				
Sores in mouth or lips			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain good mouth hygiene. Brush teeth often with a soft toothbrush or toothette. • Avoid hot, spicy, acidic, hard or crunchy foods. • Avoid commercial mouthwashes with alcohol. Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist to recommend an alcohol-free mouthwash. • Check with your doctor or nurse as soon as you notice sores in mouth or lips. • Also see Mouth Care pamphlet.*
Heartburn Stomach upset			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid fatty or spicy foods. • Sit upright after eating. Drink clear fluids and avoid large meals.
Mild tiredness			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rest often; take naps if needed. Get up and move slowly. • Eat well-balanced meals and drink plenty of fluids. Light exercise may help. • Rest when feeling tired or weak. Do not drive a motor vehicle or operate machinery when feeling tired.
Less common side effects				
Headache Joint or muscle pain			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May take 1 to 2 Regular Strength acetaminophen (Tylenol®) tablets every 4 hours, as needed for aches and pains. • Rest often, but may try light exercise.
Mild swelling in arms and legs Puffiness			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep your feet up when sitting. Eat a low salt diet. • Avoid tight fitting clothing.
Dizziness Lightheadedness			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not drive a motor vehicle or operate machinery if dizzy. • Get up and move slowly; get plenty of rest.

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Less common side effects (continued)				
Heart problems	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch for rapid, fluttering or pounding heartbeat, fluttering in the chest, chest pain, sudden fainting, recent swelling in legs or abdomen, or shortness of breath.
Nail changes (colour, pain, tenderness in nailbed, swelling of cuticles, loosening of nails)			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will slowly return to normal after treatment. • Use a nail clipper to trim nails carefully. • Use moisturizer for nails and cuticles. • Wear gloves when doing house chores or gardening. • Avoid nail polish and artificial fingernails until your nails have returned to normal.
Rare side effects				
Lung problems	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch for recent or worsening dry cough, wheezing, breathlessness, trouble breathing, chest pain (may feel worse when you cough or take deep breaths) or coughing up blood.
Liver problems	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch for yellowing of skin or the whites of eyes, or unusual dark urine.
Allergic reaction	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch for skin rash, itchiness with wheezing, breathing difficulty, flushing, or swollen eyelids, lips or tongue.

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