

# NILOTINIB

## (ne-LOE-ti-nib)

---

**Other name:** Tasigna®

**Appearance:** Capsule – 200 mg in light yellow

### Why it is used

- For treating chronic myeloid leukemia (CML)

### Before taking it

- Tell your doctor if you have / have had heart problems (including irregular heartbeat), liver or pancreas problems, abnormal electrolytes, if you cannot tolerate lactose or galactose, or have any allergies.

### Pregnancy and breastfeeding

- Nilotinib should not be used 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** during treatment and until at least **6 months** after stopping Nilotinib (general recommendation).
- Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant.
- Do not breastfeed while taking Nilotinib.

### How to take it

- Swallow whole with a glass of water on an empty stomach, at least one hour before or at least two hours after a meal.
- Do not crush or open the capsules.
- Do not take with meals as this may increase side effects.
- If you miss a dose, take your next dose as scheduled. Do not double the dose to make up for the forgotten capsules.

### While taking it

- Avoid grapefruit or grapefruit juice while on Nilotinib treatment.
- Other drugs can affect blood levels of Nilotinib. 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.

March 2010

## 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 |   |
| <b>More common side effects</b>                     |                                       |                                    |                               |   |
| Fever, chills, infection                            | ✓                                     |                                    |                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phone your doctor right away or go to the nearest emergency department, if your oral temperature is over 38°C or 100.4°F (unless stated otherwise by your healthcare team).</li> <li>• May be a result of low white blood cells</li> <li>• Watch for signs of infection (for example: fever, sore throat, cough, chills, mouth sores, painful rash).</li> <li>• Keep a thermometer at home. Check your temperature, especially if you are feeling unwell with sweats, fever or chills.</li> <li>• Limit contact with sick people. Avoid crowds in public places if your white blood cells are low.</li> <li>• Wash your hands often. Wash all fruits and vegetables; avoid raw meat(s).</li> <li>• Check with your doctor before getting any vaccines.</li> <li>• Also see <a href="#">Low White Blood Cells</a> pamphlet.*</li> </ul> |
| Anemia<br><br>(Pale skin, weakness, breathlessness) |                                       |                                    | ✓                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rest often. Eat well-balanced meals.</li> <li>• Light exercise may help. Keep activity times short with breaks in-between.</li> <li>• Do not drive a car or operate heavy machinery if you feel dizzy, lightheaded, or sleepy.</li> <li>• Some patients may need medication or blood transfusion to correct low red blood cells.</li> <li>• Also see <a href="#">Anemia</a> pamphlet.*</li> </ul>  |

\*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.

March 2010

|   | Get emergency medical help right away | Contact doctor                     |                               | What to do   |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
|   |                                       | As soon as possible (office hours) | Does not improve or if severe |  |
| <b>More common side effects (continued)</b> |                                       |                                    |                               |  |
| Unusual bleeding or bruising                | ✓                                     |                                    |                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May be a result of low platelets</li> <li>• Go to emergency if bleeding does not stop.</li> <li>• Use a soft toothbrush and avoid use of dental floss. Be careful not to cut or bruise yourself.</li> <li>• Check with your doctor before any surgery or dental work.</li> <li>• Do not take drugs that affect bleeding such as aspirin, ibuprofen and naproxen (Advil®, Motrin®, Aleve®). Use acetaminophen (Tylenol®) instead for headache, fever, or aches and pains.</li> <li>• If taking aspirin regularly, talk to your doctor before you stop taking it.</li> <li>• Also see <a href="#">Low Platelets</a> pamphlet.*</li> </ul> |
| Bleeding does not stop                      | ✓                                     |                                    |                               |  |
| Black tarry stools                          | ✓                                     |                                    |                               |  |
| Coughing up blood                           | ✓                                     |                                    |                               |  |
| Nose bleed that does not stop               | ✓                                     |                                    |                               |  |
| Rash<br>Dry, itchy skin<br>Flushing         |                                       |                                    | ✓                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay out of the sun. Wear a hat; cover exposed skin.</li> <li>• Use sunblock and daily moisturizer.</li> </ul>  |
| Abnormal Lipase and Amylase tests           |                                       |                                    | ✓                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Usually mild changes. Your doctor may monitor these regularly.</li> </ul>   |
| Nausea and vomiting (generally mild)        |                                       |                                    | ✓                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink clear fluids and avoid large meals. Get fresh air and rest.</li> <li>• Limit spicy, fried foods or foods with a strong smell.</li> <li>• Take anti-nausea drug(s) if given to you by your doctor.</li> <li>• Phone your doctor as soon as possible if you have vomited several times a day and if nausea has lasted more than 24 hours.</li> <li>• Also see <a href="#">Nausea &amp; Vomiting</a> pamphlet.*</li> </ul>   |
| Constipation                                |                                       |                                    | ✓                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eat a high fibre diet with whole grains, fruits and raw vegetables.</li> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids. Try light exercise.</li> <li>• Phone your doctor if you have not had a bowel movement for 3 or more days (or 2 days, if you are using regular laxatives), or have severe bloating or belly pain.</li> <li>• Also see <a href="#">Constipation</a> Pamphlet.*</li> </ul>  |

\*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.

March 2010

|   | Get emergency medical help right away | Contact doctor                     |                               | What to do  |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
|   |                                       | As soon as possible (office hours) | Does not improve or if severe |   |
| <b>More common side effects (continued)</b> |                                       |                                    |                               |   |
| Diarrhea                                    |                                       |                                    | ✓                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids. Limit hot, spicy, fried foods, foods/drinks with caffeine, orange or prune juice.</li> <li>• Try the BRAT diet (<b>B</b>ananas, <b>R</b>ice, <b>A</b>pple sauce, <b>T</b>oast).</li> <li>• Take anti-diarrhea drug(s) if given to you by your doctor.</li> <li>• Also see <a href="#">Diarrhea</a> pamphlet.*</li> </ul> |
| Mild tiredness                              |                                       |                                    | ✓                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rest often; take naps if needed. Get up and move slowly.</li> <li>• Eat well-balanced meals and drink plenty of fluids. Light exercise may help.</li> <li>• Rest when feeling tired or weak. Do not drive a motor vehicle or operate machinery when feeling tired.</li> </ul>  |
| Headache<br>Joint, muscle pain              |                                       |                                    | ✓                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May take 1 to 2 Regular Strength acetaminophen (Tylenol®) tablets every 4 hours, as needed for aches and pains.</li> <li>• Rest often, but may try light exercise.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Less common side effects</b>             |                                       |                                    |                               |   |
| Hair loss or thinning                       |                                       |                                    | ✓                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use a gentle soft brush; care should be taken with the use of hair sprays, bleaches, dyes and perms.</li> <li>• Your hair will usually grow back after your treatment is finished, but the texture or colour may change.</li> </ul>  |
| Salt imbalances                             | ✓                                     |                                    |                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch for rapid, fluttering or pounding heartbeat, muscle twitching or jerking, severe muscle weakness or cramping, or confusion.</li> </ul>   |
| Pancreas problems                           | ✓                                     |                                    |                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch for recent or worsening pain in the centre of the belly which may extend to the back, with loss of appetite and/or weight loss.</li> </ul>   |

\*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.

March 2010

|   | Get emergency medical help right away | Contact doctor                     |                               | What to do   |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
|   |                                       | As soon as possible (office hours) | Does not improve or if severe |  |
| <b>Less common side effects (continued)</b>                   |                                       |                                    |                               |  |
| Mild swelling in arms and legs<br>Puffiness                   |                                       |                                    | ✓                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep your feet up when sitting. Eat a low salt diet.</li> <li>Avoid tight fitting clothing.</li> </ul>  |
| Liver problems  | ✓                                     |                                    |                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Watch for yellowing of skin or the whites of eyes, or unusual dark urine</li> </ul>   |
| Heart problems  | ✓                                     |                                    |                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Watch for rapid, fluttering or pounding heartbeat, sudden fainting, chest pain, recent swelling in legs or abdomen, or shortness of breath</li> </ul>                                 |
| Severe headache, dizziness, fainting or loss of consciousness | ✓                                     |                                    |                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May be due to a significant rise or fall in blood pressure</li> </ul>   |
| High blood sugar  | ✓                                     |                                    |                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Watch for excessive thirst, urinating more often than usual, or if your blood sugar is out of control (if you usually check your own blood sugar)</li> </ul>                          |
| <b>Rare side effects</b>                                      |                                       |                                    |                               |  |
| Blood clot  | ✓                                     |                                    |                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Watch for calf pain or swelling, tenderness or hardened vein in leg(s)</li> </ul>   |
| Lung problems   | ✓                                     |                                    |                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul> |

\*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.

March 2010