

Lapatinib (la-PAT-in-ib)

Also known as Tykerb®

How It Is Given

Orally (by mouth), at least one hour before or one hour after a meal.

Side Effects

Some people develop side effects from this drug. The type and severity of side effects varies from person to person. Below are the most common ones. You may have all, some, or none of these side effects.

Early (within one week):

- Nausea/vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Tiredness
- Rash (some may look like acne), or other skin changes
- Loss of appetite

Late (after one week):

- Low red blood cell count that might make you feel tired
- Damage to the heart muscle. Your doctor may order tests to check your heart function.
- Problems with your liver

Special Points:

- This medicine is usually given in combination with a chemotherapy agent. Additional risks or side effects depend on the drug. Your doctor or nurse will review these with you.
- This medicine should be taken exactly as prescribed by your healthcare team, and you should call their office if you have any concerns or questions.
- Aspirin, NSAIDs (e.g. Motrin®, Aleve®), and vitamin E can add to bleeding problems. Do not take medicine that has them unless your doctor says it is okay. Your nurse will give you a fact card that tells you what drugs you cannot take and what you can use instead.
- Do not drink grapefruit juice or eat grapefruit while you are on this drug.
- Some medicines may affect how Lapatinib works in your body. Tell your doctor or nurse if you are taking any other medicines or have changed your medicines. Include:
 - Medicines that do and do not require a prescription.
 - Herbal remedies.
 - Vitamins.
 - Dietary supplements.

- Do not drink alcohol (such as liquor, beer, or wine) unless your doctor says it is okay.
- Store this drug at room temperature away from sunlight, without too much heat and moisture.
- If you are sexually active, you must use birth control. Your doctor or nurse will tell which kind is safest.
- You must not get pregnant while taking this drug. This drug is likely to be harmful to an unborn fetus.
- Do not breast feed while taking lapatinib.

Call Your Doctor or Nurse if You Have:

- Shortness of breath or any other breathing problems.
- An inability to eat or drink.
- Four or more watery stools per day.
- An irregular heartbeat or sudden fainting spells.
- Any unexpected or unexplained side effects.
- Any questions or concerns.

The information on this card is selective and does not cover all possible side effects; others may occur. Please report any problems to your doctor.



Memorial Sloan-Kettering
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1275 York Avenue, New York, NY 10065