



## PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Lenvatinib

This information from UpToDate® Lexidrug™ explains what you need to know about this medication, including what it's used for, how to take it, its side effects, and when to call your healthcare provider.

## Brand Names: US

Lenvima (10 MG Daily Dose); Lenvima (12 MG Daily Dose); Lenvima (14 MG Daily Dose); Lenvima (18 MG Daily Dose); Lenvima (20 MG Daily Dose); Lenvima (24 MG Daily Dose); Lenvima (4 MG Daily Dose); Lenvima (8 MG Daily Dose)

## Brand Names: Canada

Lenvima (10 MG Daily Dose); Lenvima (12 MG Daily Dose); Lenvima (14 MG Daily Dose); Lenvima (18 MG Daily Dose); Lenvima (20 MG Daily Dose); Lenvima (24 MG Daily Dose); Lenvima (4 MG Daily Dose); Lenvima (8 MG Daily Dose)

## What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat cancer.
- This drug may be used with other drugs to treat your health condition. If you are also taking other drugs, talk with your doctor about the risks and side effects that may happen.

## What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?

- If you are allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.
- If you have high blood pressure.
- If you are having or have had recent dental work or surgery in the mouth.

- If you are taking any drugs that can cause a certain type of heartbeat that is not normal (prolonged QT interval). There are many drugs that can do this. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.
- If you are breast-feeding. Do not breast-feed while you take this drug and for 1 week after your last dose.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take this drug with all of your drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug without checking with your doctor.

## **What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?**

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- This drug may affect how wounds heal. If you need to have surgery, you may need to stop this drug before surgery. Start taking it again after surgery as you have been told by your doctor. Call your doctor right away if you have a wound that does not heal or any other wound problems.
- Have your urine checked as you have been told by your doctor.
- Have your blood work and heart function checked as you have been told by your doctor.
- Take good care of your teeth. See a dentist often.
- Be careful in hot weather or while being active. Drink lots of fluids to stop fluid loss.
- If diarrhea or throwing up happens, talk with the doctor. You will need to make sure to avoid dehydration and electrolyte problems.
- High blood pressure has happened with this drug. Rarely, very bad health problems from high blood pressure have happened. Check your blood

pressure as your doctor has told you.

- Sometimes, side effects reported in people taking this drug have been deadly. These have included bleeding problems; heart, kidney, or liver problems; or bowel problems. Talk with your doctor if you have questions.
- If you are 75 or older, use this drug with care. You could have more side effects.
- This drug may affect fertility. Fertility problems may lead to not being able to get pregnant or father a child. If you plan to get pregnant or father a child, talk with your doctor before taking this drug.
- This drug may cause harm to an unborn baby. A pregnancy test will be done before you start this drug to show that you are NOT pregnant.
- If you may become pregnant, use birth control while taking this drug and for 30 days after your last dose. If you get pregnant, call your doctor right away.
- If your sex partner may become pregnant, you may need to use non-hormonal birth control if your doctor tells you to. Talk with your doctor about whether you need to use birth control. If your sex partner gets pregnant, call the doctor right away.

## **What are some side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?**

**WARNING/CAUTION:** Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Signs of bleeding like throwing up or coughing up blood; vomit that looks like coffee grounds; blood in the urine; black, red, or tarry stools; bleeding from the gums; abnormal vaginal bleeding; bruises without a cause or that get bigger; or bleeding you cannot stop.

- Signs of fluid and electrolyte problems like mood changes, confusion, muscle pain or weakness, fast or abnormal heartbeat, severe dizziness or passing out, increased thirst, seizures, feeling very tired or weak, decreased appetite, unable to pass urine or change in the amount of urine produced, dry mouth, dry eyes, or severe upset stomach or throwing up.
- Signs of kidney problems like unable to pass urine, change in how much urine is passed, blood in the urine, or a big weight gain.
- Signs of liver problems like dark urine, tiredness, decreased appetite, upset stomach or stomach pain, light-colored stools, throwing up, or yellow skin or eyes.
- Signs of high or low blood pressure like very bad headache or dizziness, passing out, or change in eyesight.
- Signs of a urinary tract infection (UTI) like blood in the urine, burning or pain when passing urine, feeling the need to pass urine often or right away, fever, lower stomach pain, or pelvic pain.
- Signs of low thyroid levels like constipation; not able to handle cold; memory problems; mood changes; or a burning, numbness, or tingling feeling that is not normal.
- Redness or irritation of the palms of hands or soles of feet.
- Holes and fistulas in the GI (gastrointestinal) tract have happened with this drug. Call your doctor right away if you have severe stomach pain or swelling, or a high fever.
- Heart problems like heart failure and a certain abnormal heartbeat (prolonged QT interval) have happened with this drug. Call your doctor right away if you have a fast or abnormal heartbeat; severe dizziness or passing out; or shortness of breath, a big weight gain, or swelling in the arms or legs.
- Severe blood clots like heart attack have happened with this drug. Call your doctor right away if you have signs of heart attack like chest pain or pressure; arm, back, neck, or jaw pain; or shortness of breath. Call your doctor right away if you have signs of stroke like confusion, numbness or weakness on 1 side of your body, severe dizziness or headache, or change in

speech or eyesight.

- Severe jawbone problems have happened with this drug. The risk may be higher if you have dental problems, dental work, or take other drugs that may cause jawbone problems. Many drugs can do this. Talk with your doctor. Call your doctor right away if you have jaw swelling or pain, toothache, or sores on your gums.
- A very bad and sometimes deadly brain problem called posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome (PRES) has happened with this drug. Call your doctor right away if you have signs like feeling confused, lowered alertness, change in eyesight, loss of eyesight, seizures, or very bad headache.

## **What are some other side effects of this drug?**

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

- Hair loss.
- Change in taste.
- Cough.
- Feeling dizzy, tired, or weak.
- Dry mouth.
- Headache.
- Constipation.
- Stomach pain or heartburn.
- Mouth pain.
- Mouth irritation or mouth sores.
- Muscle or joint pain.
- Trouble sleeping.
- Change in voice.
- Weight loss.

- Diarrhea, throwing up, upset stomach, and decreased appetite are common with this drug. If these happen, talk with your doctor about ways to lower these side effects. Call your doctor right away if any of these effects bother you, do not get better, or are severe.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-332-1088. You may also report side effects at <https://www.fda.gov/medwatch>.

## How is this drug best taken?

Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

- Take this drug at the same time of day.
- Keep taking this drug as you have been told by your doctor or other health care provider, even if you feel well.
- Take with or without food.
- Swallow whole. Do not chew or crush.
- If you have trouble swallowing this drug, the capsule can be dissolved in a small glass of water or apple juice. Dissolve the capsule as you have been told or read the package insert. Do not crush or break. Talk with your doctor or pharmacist if you have questions.
- After drinking, rinse the rest of the drug in the glass with more juice or water and drink.
- Those who have feeding tubes may use this drug. Use as you have been told. Flush the feeding tube after this drug is given.
- After mixing as you have been told, you may store in a covered container in the refrigerator for up to 24 hours. If you do not take this drug within 24

hours after mixing, throw it away.

## What do I do if I miss a dose?

- Take a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it is less than 12 hours until the next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.
- Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.

## How do I store and/or throw out this drug?

- Store at room temperature in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.

## General drug facts

- If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.
- Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else's drugs.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. Check with your pharmacist. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

## Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer

This generalized information is a limited summary of diagnosis, treatment, and/or medication information. It is not meant to be comprehensive and should be used as a tool to help the user understand and/or assess potential diagnostic and treatment options. It does NOT include all information about conditions, treatments, medications, side effects, or risks that may apply to a specific patient. It is not intended to be medical advice or a substitute for the medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment of a health care provider based on the health care provider's examination and assessment of a patient's specific and unique circumstances. Patients must speak with a health care provider for complete information about their health, medical questions, and treatment options, including any risks or benefits regarding use of medications. This information does not endorse any treatments or medications as safe, effective, or approved for treating a specific patient. UpToDate, Inc. and its affiliates disclaim any warranty or liability relating to this information or the use thereof. The use of this information is governed by the Terms of Use, available at <https://www.wolterskluwer.com/en/know/clinical-effectiveness-terms>.

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If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit [www.mskcc.org/pe](http://www.mskcc.org/pe) to search our virtual library.

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