Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Nilotinib

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

Cavhanza; Danziten; Tasigna

Brand Names: Canada

APO-Nilotinib; REDDY-Nilotinib; Tasigna

Warning

All products:

- This drug may cause a prolonged QT interval (a type of heartbeat that is not normal). If this happens, the chance of other unsafe and sometimes deadly abnormal heartbeats may be raised. Sudden deaths have happened in people taking this drug. Do not take this drug if you have low potassium or magnesium levels or a history of long QT on ECG. Your heartbeat will be watched often with an ECG. Talk with your doctor.
- Do not take this drug if you are taking any drugs that can raise the risk of a prolonged QT interval (a type of abnormal heartbeat). There are many drugs that can do this. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Capsules:

- Take this drug on an empty stomach. Do not eat for at least 2 hours before and 1 hour after taking this drug.

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat a type of leukemia.
- It may be given to you for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

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 are taking another drug that has the same drug in it.
- If you have been told that your body has problems with certain sugars (lactose, glucose, galactose). Some products have lactose.
- If you take any drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) that must not be taken with this drug, like some other drugs used for HIV or certain drugs used for seizures, infection, or stomach or bowel problems. There are many drugs that must not be taken with this drug.
- If you are breast-feeding. Do not breast-feed while you take this drug and for 2 weeks 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?

For all patients taking this drug:

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Have your blood work checked and an ECG (to see how your heart beats) as you have been told by your doctor.
- If you have high blood sugar (diabetes), talk with your doctor. This drug may raise blood sugar.
- This drug may lower the ability of the bone marrow to make blood cells that the body needs. If blood cell counts get very low, this can lead to bleeding problems, infections, or anemia. If you have questions, talk with the doctor.
- You may have more chance of getting an infection. Wash hands often. Stay away from people with infections, colds, or flu.
- You may bleed more easily. Be careful and avoid injury. Use a soft toothbrush and an electric razor. Rarely, some bleeding problems have been deadly.
- Talk with your doctor before getting any vaccines. Use of some vaccines with this drug may either raise the chance of an infection or make the vaccine not work as well.
- Avoid grapefruit and grapefruit juice.
- High cholesterol and triglyceride levels have happened with this drug. If you have high cholesterol or triglycerides, talk with your doctor.
- There are different brands and forms of this drug. Do not switch between different brands or forms of this drug without calling the doctor who ordered it.
- If you are in remission and your doctor tells you to stop taking this drug, you may have more muscle and bone signs than before you stopped treatment. These signs include arm, leg, bone, spine, muscle, or joint pain. If you have questions, talk with your doctor.
- 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 2 weeks after the last dose unless you have been told otherwise. Be sure you know how long to use birth control. If you get pregnant, call your doctor right away.
- If your sex partner may become pregnant, you may need to use birth control while taking this drug and for some time after the last dose. Talk with your doctor.

Children:

- If the patient is a child, use this drug with care. The risk of some side effects may be higher in children.
- This drug may affect growth in children and teens in some cases. They may need regular growth checks. Talk with the doctor.
- As your child grows, your child's doctor may change your child's dose. Give this drug as your child's doctor has told you.

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 infection like fever, chills, very bad sore throat, ear or sinus pain, cough, more sputum or change in color of sputum, pain with passing urine, mouth sores, or wound that will not heal.
- 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 a pancreas problem (pancreatitis) like very bad stomach pain, very bad back pain, or very bad upset stomach or throwing up.
- 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 electrolyte problems like mood changes; confusion; muscle pain, cramps, or spasms; weakness; shakiness; change in balance; an abnormal heartbeat; seizures; loss of appetite; or severe upset stomach or throwing up.
- Signs of high blood pressure like very bad headache or dizziness, passing out, or change in eyesight.
- Signs of high blood sugar like confusion, feeling sleepy, unusual thirst or hunger, passing urine more often, flushing, fast breathing, or breath that smells like fruit.
- Chest pain or pressure, a fast heartbeat, or an abnormal heartbeat.
- Dizziness or passing out.
- This drug may cause you to swell or keep fluid in your body. Tell your doctor if you have swelling, weight gain, or trouble breathing.
- People with a certain type of leukemia taking this drug may have lower blood flow to the heart, brain, or leg. Call your doctor right away if you have chest pain, numbness or weakness, trouble walking or speaking, leg pain, leg feels cold, or change in skin color of the leg.
- Patients with cancer who take this drug may be at a greater risk of getting a severe health problem called tumor lysis syndrome (TLS). This may lead to death. Call your doctor right away if you have a fast or abnormal heartbeat; any passing out; trouble passing urine; muscle weakness or cramps; upset stomach, throwing up, diarrhea, or not able to eat; or feel sluggish.

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.
- Headache.
- Feeling tired or weak.
- Back, muscle, or joint pain.
- Muscle spasm.
- Trouble sleeping.
- Signs of a common cold.
- Nose or throat irritation.
- Itching.
- Night sweats.
- Dry skin.
- Stomach pain.
- Constipation, diarrhea, upset stomach, throwing up, 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.

Capsules:

- Take this drug on an empty stomach. Do not eat for at least 2 hours before and 1 hour after taking this drug.
- Swallow whole with a full glass of water.
- Do not chew or crush.
- Some brands of this drug may be opened and the contents sprinkled on 1 teaspoon (5 mL) of applesauce. Some brands must not be opened. Be sure you know if your brand may be opened. If you sprinkle this drug on applesauce, swallow within 15 minutes after mixing. Do not store for future use.

Tablets:

- Take with or without food.
- Swallow whole with a full glass of water.
- Do not chew, break, or crush.
- If you cannot swallow the tablets, they can be dissolved in 1 to 2 teaspoons (5 to 10 mL, or just enough to cover the drug) of room temperature liquid. Liquids that may be used include water, milk, apple juice, pineapple juice, or cranberry juice. After the tablets dissolve (about 1 minute), swirl and drink within 15 minutes. Do not store for future use.

Oral-disintegrating tablet:

- Take with or without food.
- Use dry hands to open the bottle and to handle the tablets.
- Do not crush the tablet before putting it in your mouth.
- The tablet may be chewed or placed on the tongue to dissolve. Swallow with

saliva. Extra fluid is not needed.

- This drug may also be swallowed whole with water.

All products:

- Keep taking this drug as you have been told by your doctor or other health care provider, even if you feel well.
- Do not take cimetidine, famotidine, nizatidine, or ranitidine at the same time as this drug. Take this drug at least 2 hours before or 10 hours after taking these drugs.
- Do not take antacids within 2 hours before or 2 hours after taking this drug.

What do I do if I miss a 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?

All products:

- 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.

Oral-disintegrating tablet:

- Store in the original container. Do not take out the antimoisture cube or packet.
- Keep lid tightly closed.

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.
- This drug comes with an extra patient fact sheet called a Medication Guide. Read it with care. Read it again each time this drug is refilled. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with the doctor, 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 to search our virtual library.

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