PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Trametinib

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

Mekinist

Brand Names: Canada

Mekinist

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat cancer.

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

All products:

- 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 breast-feeding. Do not breast-feed while you take this drug or for 4 months after your last dose.

Tablets:

- If you are not able to swallow tablets.

This drug may interact with other drugs or health problems.

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.
- Sometimes, dabrafenib is taken with trametinib. If you are taking dabrafenib with trametinib, be sure you know the side effects that can happen with each drug. When these drugs are taken together, the chance of certain side effects may be raised. These side effects can be very bad and sometimes deadly. This includes bleeding, bleeding in the brain, blood clots, eye problems, fever, heart problems (like heart failure), high blood sugar, other cancers, and severe skin reactions like Stevens-Johnson syndrome. Talk with your doctor about the chance of side effects with your drugs.
- High blood pressure has happened with this drug. Have your blood pressure checked as you have been told by your doctor.
- Have your blood work checked and eye exams as you have been told by your doctor.
- Have your skin checked. Tell your doctor if you have any skin changes like a new wart, skin sore or reddish bump that bleeds or does not heal, or a change in the color or size of a mole.
- Blood clots have happened with this drug. Blood clots can be life-threatening. Tell your doctor if you have ever had a blood clot. Talk with your doctor.
- If you are 65 or older, use this drug with care. You could have more side effects.
- This drug may cause fertility problems. This may affect being able to have

children. Talk with the 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, you must use birth control while taking this drug and for 4 months after the last dose. If you get pregnant, call your doctor right away.
- If your sex partner may become pregnant, you must use condoms (even if you have had a vasectomy) while taking this drug and for 4 months after your last dose. If your partner gets pregnant, call the doctor right away.

Children:

- If your child's weight changes, talk with the doctor. The dose of this drug may need to be changed.

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. Sometimes, this has been deadly.
- Signs of lung or breathing problems like shortness of breath or other trouble breathing, cough, or fever.
- 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 high or low blood pressure like very bad headache or dizziness, passing out, or change in eyesight.
- 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.
- A burning, numbness, or tingling feeling that is not normal.
- Fever or chills.
- Redness or irritation of the palms of hands or soles of feet.
- Call your doctor right away if you have signs of a blood clot like chest pain or pressure; coughing up blood; shortness of breath; swelling, warmth, numbness, change of color, or pain in a leg or arm; or trouble speaking or swallowing.
- Severe eye problems (including retinal detachment) have happened with this drug. These problems can lead to blindness. Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you start to see halos or bright colors around lights, flashing lights, floaters, a curtain-like shadow coming across your eye, or have sudden eyesight loss.
- This drug may cause heart failure. You will need to have your heart function checked while taking this drug. Call your doctor right away if you have signs of heart problems like a cough or shortness of breath that is new or worse, swelling of the ankles or legs, a heartbeat that does not feel normal, weight gain of more than 5 pounds in 24 hours, dizziness, or passing out.
- A bowel problem (colitis) and holes in the bowel have happened with this drug. Sometimes, these have been deadly. Call your doctor right away if you have diarrhea, stomach pain or cramps, fever, or very upset stomach.
- An immune system problem called hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH) has happened with this drug. Call your doctor right away if you have a fever, swollen gland, rash, or swelling in the stomach area or severe stomach pain.

- Skin reactions are common with this drug. However, severe skin reactions may also happen. This may include Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS). Sometimes, body organs may also be affected. These reactions can be deadly. Get medical help right away if you have signs like red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin; red or irritated eyes; sores in your mouth, throat, nose, eyes, genitals, or any areas of skin; fever; chills; body aches; shortness of breath; or swollen glands.

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:

- Pimples (acne).
- Dry skin.
- Change in nails.
- Upset stomach or throwing up.
- Headache.
- Feeling tired or weak.
- Muscle or joint pain.
- Mouth irritation or mouth sores.
- Diarrhea is common with this drug and can be severe. Call your doctor to find out what to do if you have severe or long-lasting diarrhea.

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.

All products:

- Take this drug at the same time of day.
- If you throw up after taking a dose, do not repeat the dose. Take your next dose at your normal time.
- Keep taking this drug as you have been told by your doctor or other health care provider, even if you feel well.

Tablets:

- Take this drug on an empty stomach. Take at least 1 hour before or at least 2 hours after a meal.
- Swallow whole. Do not chew, break, or crush.

Solution:

- If taking this drug WITHOUT dabrafenib, take it with a low-fat meal or on an empty stomach.
- If taking this drug WITH dabrafenib, take this drug at least 1 hour before or at least 2 hours after a meal. If the patient is a small child who cannot go without food, breast milk or formula may be given as needed.
- Measure liquid doses carefully. Use the measuring device that comes with this drug. If there is none, ask the pharmacist for a device to measure this drug.
- Those who have certain feeding tubes may use this drug. This drug is not for use with some feeding tubes. Talk with the doctor. Use as you have been told. Flush the feeding tube after this drug is given.

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?

Tablets:

- Store at room temperature in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Keep tablets in the bottle they come in and do not move to a pill holder.
- Store in the original container. Do not take out the antimoisture cube or packet.

Solution:

- Store in the original bottle at room temperature. Do not freeze.
- This drug will be mixed by the pharmacist. Throw away this drug 35 days after it was mixed. Be sure you know the right day to throw away this drug.

All products:

- Protect from light.
- 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 to search our virtual library.

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