

Afatinib

Care Team Contact Information: _____

Pharmacy Contact Information: _____

Diagnosis: _____

- This treatment is often used for non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).
- It may also be used for other reasons.

Goal of Treatment: _____

- Treatment may continue for a certain time period, until it no longer works, or until side effects are no longer controlled.

Treatment Regimen

Treatment Name	How the Treatment Works	How the Treatment is Given
Afatinib (ay-FA-tih-nib): Gilotrif (JEE-loh-trif)	Slows down or stops the growth of cancer cells by blocking a specific protein that helps them survive.	Tablet taken by mouth.

Treatment Administration and Schedule

Your afatinib dosing instructions:

- Afatinib comes in 3 tablet strengths: 20 mg, 30 mg, and 40 mg. Your care team will tell you which tablets to take.
- Your dose might differ, but afatinib is typically taken as one 40 mg tablet by mouth once daily.
- Take afatinib 1 time each day, around the same time each day.
- Take afatinib on an empty stomach at least 1 hour before a meal or 2 hours after a meal.
- Swallow afatinib tablets whole. Do not crush, break, cut, chew, or dissolve afatinib tablets.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking afatinib unless your care team tells you to.
- Your care team may tell you to change your dose, temporarily stop, or completely stop taking afatinib if you develop certain side effects.
- If you vomit or miss a dose of afatinib, take it as soon as you remember. If it is within 12 hours of your next dose, skip the dose and just take your next dose at your regular time. Do not take 2 doses of afatinib at the same time.
- If you take too much afatinib, call your care team or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

Storage and Handling of Afatinib

- Store afatinib at room temperature between 68°F and 77°F (20°C and 25°C).
- Keep afatinib in the original container and keep the container tightly closed.
- Keep afatinib away from moisture and light.
- People who are or may be pregnant should wear gloves when handling the medicine.
- Keep afatinib and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.
- Ask your care team how to safely throw away any unused afatinib.

Appointments

Appointments may include regular check-ups with your care team, lab visits, and imaging tests. It's important to keep your appointments whenever you can. If you miss any appointments, call your care provider as soon as possible to reschedule your appointment.

Supportive Care to Prevent and Treat Side Effects

Description	Supportive Care Taken at Home
To help prevent or treat nausea and vomiting	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
To help prevent and treat diarrhea	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
To help lower the risk of rash	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Other	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Common Side Effects

Side Effect	Important Information
<p>Low White Blood Cell (WBC) Count (Neutropenia) and Increased Risk of Infection</p>	<p>Description: WBCs help protect your body from infections. A low WBC count increases your risk of getting infections.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash your hands often and bathe regularly. • Avoid crowded places and close contact with people who are sick. • Follow food safety and wound care advice from your care team. • Your care team may prescribe medicine to help your WBCs recover. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher • Chills • New or worsening cough or sore throat • Painful urination or signs of a urinary infection • Feeling much more tired than usual • Red, swollen, warm, or painful areas on the skin (possible skin infection)
<p>Mouth Sores or Irritation (Mucositis or Stomatitis)</p>	<p>Description: Treatment can irritate the lining of the mouth. In some cases, this can cause redness, sores, pain, and swelling.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rinse your mouth after meals and at bedtime; rinse more often if sores develop. • Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush or use a cotton swab after meals. • Use a mild, non-alcohol mouth rinse at least 4 times daily (after meals and at bedtime). Example: 1/8 teaspoon salt + 1/4 teaspoon baking soda in 8 oz warm water. • Avoid acidic, hot, spicy, rough, or crunchy foods and drinks that can irritate your mouth. • Avoid tobacco, alcohol, and alcohol-based mouthwash. • Your care team may prescribe medicines or mouth treatments to help with pain and healing. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painful mouth sores or throat pain • Trouble eating or significant weight loss
<p>Liver Problems</p>	<p>Description: Treatment can cause liver injury. Your care team may check your liver with blood tests before and during treatment.</p> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowing of your skin or the white part of your eyes (jaundice) • Severe nausea or vomiting • Pain on the right side of your stomach area (abdomen) • Dark, tea-colored urine • Bleeding or bruising more easily than normal

<p>Diarrhea</p>	<p>Description: Diarrhea is loose, watery stools or more frequent bowel movements than usual. It can cause dehydration and weakness.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep track of how often you go to the bathroom each day. • Drink 8 to 10 glasses of water or other fluids daily, unless your care team tells you otherwise. • Eat small meals of mild, low-fiber foods (such as bananas, applesauce, potatoes, chicken, rice, and toast). • If you have diarrhea, avoid high-fiber foods (such as raw vegetables, fruits, and whole grains), gas-producing foods (such as broccoli and beans), dairy (such as milk and yogurt), and spicy, fried, or greasy foods. • Your care team may recommend an antidiarrheal medicine such as loperamide (Imodium). <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 or more bowel movements than normal in 24 hours • Dizziness or lightheadedness while having diarrhea • Signs of dehydration (very thirsty, dry mouth, dizziness, or dark urine) • Bloody diarrhea
<p>Kidney Problems</p>	<p>Description: Treatment can cause kidney problems, including damage to the kidneys and decreased kidney function. Your care team will monitor your kidney function during treatment.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink 8 to 10 glasses of water or other fluids each day, unless your care team tells you otherwise. • Your care team may give you fluids and electrolytes with your treatment. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease in your amount of urine • Blood in your urine • Swelling of your ankles • Loss of appetite
<p>Infected Skin Around the Nail</p>	<p>Description: The skin around your fingernails or toenails may become red, swollen, and painful. Sometimes the area can fill with pus and form a blister (abscess). This can make it uncomfortable to use your hands or walk.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep nails clean and dry. • Trim nails straight across and avoid cutting cuticles. • Wear gloves when washing dishes, cleaning, or gardening to protect your hands. • Wear comfortable, loose-fitting shoes with cushioned socks to reduce pressure on toenails. • Avoid biting your nails or picking at the skin around them. • Your care team may recommend medicine for symptoms. <p>Talk your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear comfortable, loose-fitting shoes with cushioned socks to reduce pressure on toenails. • Avoid biting your nails or picking at the skin around them. • Your care team may recommend medicine for symptoms.

<p>Rash or Itchy or Dry Skin and Acne-Like Rash</p>	<p>Description: Rash or itchy skin can cause redness, swelling, and a variety of bumps or patches (small red spots, welts, blisters, or scaly dry areas). An acne-like rash is a skin condition. It usually appears on the face, neck, and back, causing red, inflamed bumps that may itch or feel dry.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep your skin moisturized with creams or lotions to reduce rash and itchiness. • Wear loose-fitting clothing. • Avoid perfumes and colognes, as they may worsen rash symptoms. • Limit time spent in the heat to prevent worsening symptoms. • If you get a rash, keep the area clean and dry. • Check with your care team before using any treatments. • Do not use over-the-counter acne treatments like benzoyl peroxide or salicylic acid, or soaps with alcohol. • Wash with a mild, moisturizing soap, and avoid long, hot baths or showers. • After washing, pat your skin dry instead of rubbing. • Oatmeal baths and unscented moisturizers may relieve itching. • Sunlight can worsen symptoms, so avoid sun exposure whenever possible. • Wear long-sleeved clothing with ultraviolet (UV) protection if possible. • Use broad-brimmed hats for added protection. • Apply broad-spectrum sunscreen (UVA/UVB), with sun protective factor (SPF) 30 or higher, as directed. • Use lip balm with SPF 30 or higher. • Avoid tanning beds. • Your care team may recommend or prescribe medicine for rash. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painful or worsening rash • Rash that does not improve with treatment • Itching that continues to worsen
<p>Low Potassium Levels in Your Blood (Hypokalemia)</p>	<p>Description: Treatment may cause low levels of potassium in your blood. Your care team will do blood tests to check you for these changes and will treat you if needed.</p> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New or worsening muscle weakness or cramps • Irregular, fast, or pounding heartbeat, or chest pain • Severe dizziness, fainting, or lightheadedness • Severe constipation or stomach-area (abdominal) pain

Select Rare Side Effects

Side Effect	Talk to Your Care Team if You Have Any of These Signs or Symptoms	
A Tear in Your Stomach or Intestinal Wall (Perforation) or an Abnormal Connection Between 2 Parts of Your Body (Fistula)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe pain or tenderness in your stomach area (abdomen) • Swelling of the abdomen • Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher • Chills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nausea • Vomiting • Signs of dehydration (very thirsty, dry mouth, dizziness, or dark urine)
Lung Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cough • Shortness of breath 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chest pain
Eye Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry or red eyes • Eye pain or swelling • Vision changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased tears • Sensitivity to light • Blurred vision

Before starting treatment, ask your care team when to call 9-1-1 or seek emergency help. If you experience any new, worsening, or uncontrolled side effects, contact your care team immediately.

Intimacy, Fertility, Pregnancy, and Breastfeeding

- Treatment may **change how you feel about intimacy and your body**. However, physical closeness—such as holding hands and hugging—remains safe. It is common to have questions about intimacy. If needed, talk to your care team for guidance.
- Treatment may affect your **ability to have children**. It may damage your reproductive organs or stop them from working. If you are worried about fertility, talk to your care team before starting treatment.
- Treatment may **harm an unborn baby**.
 - If you are able to become pregnant:
 - Take a pregnancy test before starting treatment.
 - Use an effective method of birth control during treatment and for 2 weeks after your last dose of afatinib.
 - If you think you might be pregnant or if you become pregnant, tell your care team right away.
 - If your partner is able to become pregnant, use an effective method of birth control—such as condoms—during treatment with afatinib.
- **Do NOT breastfeed** during treatment and for 2 weeks after your last dose of afatinib.

Additional Information

- **Tell your care team about all the medicines you take.**
This includes prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, and herbal products. Before starting any new medicine, supplement, or vaccine, ask your care team first.
- **This Patient Education Sheet may not describe all possible side effects.**
Call your care team for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

Notes

Updated Date: June 15, 2026

Scan the QR code below to access this education sheet.



Important notice: The Association of Cancer Care Centers (ACCC), Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA), Network for Collaborative Oncology Development & Advancement, Inc. (NCODA), and Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) have collaborated in gathering information for and developing this patient education guide. This guide represents a brief summary of the medication derived from information provided by the drug manufacturer and other resources.

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