

# Alectinib

**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.
- Your care team will perform a test for an abnormal ALK gene to make sure that alectinib is right for you.

**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
Alectinib (uh-LEK-tih-nib) Alecensa (A-leh-SEN-suh)	[Insert patient-friendly language for how the drug works]	Capsules taken by mouth.

## Treatment Administration and Schedule

Your alectinib dosing instructions:

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- Alectinib comes in 1 capsule strengths: 150 mg.
- Your dose might differ, but alectinib is typically taken as four 150 mg capsules (600 mg total dose) by mouth twice daily.
- Take alectinib 2 times a day, around the same time each day.
- Take alectinib with food.
- Swallow alectinib capsules whole. Do not open or dissolve the capsule contents.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking alectinib unless your care team tells you to.
- Your care team may tell you to change your dose, temporarily stop, or completely stop taking alectinib if you develop certain side effects.
- If you miss a dose of alectinib, do not take the missed dose. Take your next dose at your regular time.
- If you vomit after taking a dose of alectinib, do not take an extra dose. Take your next dose at your regular time.
- If you take too much alectinib, call your care team or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

**Storage and Handling of Alectinib**

- Do not store alectinib at temperatures above 86°F (30°C).
- Store alectinib capsules in the original container.
- Keep alectinib capsules dry and away from light.
- Keep alectinib and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.
- Ask your care team how to safely throw away any unused alectinib.

**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/>
Other	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

**Common Side Effects**

Side Effect	Important Information
Low Red Blood Cell (RBC) Count and Hemoglobin (Hgb) (Anemia)	<p>Description: RBCs and Hgb carry oxygen to your body's tissues and remove carbon dioxide. Low RBC or Hgb (anemia) can make you feel weak, very tired, or look pale.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aim for 7 to 8 hours of sleep each night.</li> <li>• Do not drive, operate heavy machinery, or do other dangerous activities if you are very tired.</li> <li>• Balance activity and rest — stay as active as you can, but rest when needed.</li> <li>• Eat a balanced diet and follow any nutrition or supplement advice from your care team.</li> </ul> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shortness of breath</li> <li>• Dizziness or fainting</li> <li>• Fast or irregular heartbeats</li> <li>• Sudden or severe headache</li> </ul>

<p>Fatigue</p>	<p>Description: Fatigue is a constant and sometimes strong feeling of tiredness.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine exercise can help reduce fatigue. Talk with your care team to find the right type and amount of activity for you.</li> <li>• Ask family and friends for help with daily tasks and for emotional support.</li> <li>• Try healthy ways to feel better, such as meditation, journaling, yoga, or guided imagery, to reduce anxiety and improve well-being.</li> <li>• Aim for 7 to 8 hours of sleep each night. Limit daytime naps to help you sleep better at night.</li> <li>• Do not drive, operate heavy machinery, or do other potentially dangerous activities if you are very tired.</li> </ul> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tiredness that affects your daily life or prevents you from doing normal activities</li> <li>• Tiredness that does not get better with rest</li> <li>• Dizziness or weakness along with severe tiredness</li> </ul>
<p>Your Body May Hold Too Much Fluid (Fluid Retention) Leading to Swelling (Edema)</p>	<p>Description: Fluid retention (edema) is swelling caused by excess fluid in body tissues, often seen in the legs, ankles, feet, hands, or abdomen. It can cause tightness, weight gain, and discomfort.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weigh yourself daily and keep a record to notice sudden weight gain.</li> <li>• Elevate swollen legs when sitting and avoid standing for long periods.</li> <li>• Wear compression stockings if your care team recommends them.</li> <li>• Limit salt (sodium) intake and follow any fluid restrictions your care team gives.</li> <li>• Stay active and do gentle movement to improve circulation.</li> </ul> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swelling that suddenly worsens or spreads to other areas</li> <li>• Pain, redness, or warmth in the affected area</li> <li>• Signs of shortness of breath or difficulty breathing</li> <li>• Swelling is persistent and does not improve with home management</li> <li>• Unexpected weight gain</li> <li>• Note: Your care team may ask you to contact them if your weight increases by a certain amount over a certain time period.</li> </ul>
<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"> <li>• Yellowing of your skin or the white part of your eyes (jaundice)</li> <li>• Severe nausea or vomiting</li> <li>• Pain on the right side of your stomach area (abdomen)</li> <li>• Dark, tea-colored urine</li> <li>• Bleeding or bruising more easily than normal</li> </ul>

<p>Constipation</p>	<p>Description: Constipation means hard, dry stools or fewer bowel movements than normal. It can cause discomfort or pain.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Track how often you have bowel movements each day.</li> <li>• Drink 8 to 10 glasses of fluids daily, unless your care team says otherwise.</li> <li>• Stay active and exercise regularly.</li> <li>• Eat more high-fiber foods (such as raw fruits, vegetables, and whole grains) unless advised otherwise.</li> <li>• Your care team may recommend laxatives such as polyethylene glycol (Miralax) or senna.</li> </ul> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constipation lasting 3 or more days</li> <li>• No bowel movement 48 hours after using a laxative</li> </ul>
<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"> <li>• Drink 8 to 10 glasses of water or other fluids each day, unless your care team tells you otherwise.</li> <li>• Your care team may give you fluids and electrolytes with your treatment.</li> </ul> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease in your amount of urine</li> <li>• Blood in your urine</li> <li>• Swelling of your ankles</li> <li>• Loss of appetite</li> </ul>
<p>High Blood Sugar (Hyperglycemia)</p>	<p>Description: Treatment may cause high blood sugar levels. Your care team will do blood tests to check you for these changes and will treat you if needed.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eat a well-balanced diet.</li> <li>• Limit sugary drinks and foods.</li> <li>• Eat smaller, more frequent meals.</li> <li>• Be physically active for at least 30 minutes most days.</li> <li>• Your care team may ask you to check your blood sugar at home. If you are already doing this, they may ask you to do it more frequently.</li> </ul> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frequent urination</li> <li>• Drowsiness</li> <li>• Increased thirst</li> <li>• Loss of appetite</li> <li>• Blurred vision</li> <li>• Fruity smell on your breath</li> <li>• Confusion</li> <li>• Nausea, vomiting, or stomach pain</li> <li>• It becomes harder to control your blood sugar</li> </ul>

<p>Muscle, Bone, or Joint Pain</p>	<p>Description: Muscle pain is soreness, aching, cramps, stiffness, tenderness, or weakness in one or more muscles. Joint pain is pain, stiffness, swelling, or reduced movement where two bones meet. Bone pain is a deep, aching or sharp pain in or around a bone that may worsen with movement or pressure.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep a pain diary: note pain levels, locations, and activities that make it better or worse.</li> <li>• Do gentle exercise (walking, stretching, yoga) to maintain mobility and strength. Check with your care team before starting a new activity.</li> <li>• Use a warm compress for stiff muscles or a cold pack to reduce swelling and numb pain—use what helps the area.</li> <li>• Your care team may recommend or prescribe medicines, including over-the-counter pain relievers.</li> </ul> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain you cannot control with usual measures</li> <li>• Swelling, redness, or warmth in a joint</li> <li>• New weakness</li> <li>• Trouble walking or moving</li> </ul>
<p>Changes in Electrolytes and Other Laboratory Results</p>	<p>Description: Treatment may cause low levels of calcium and potassium, and high levels of uric acid 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"> <li>• Severe muscle cramps or spasms</li> <li>• Tingling or numbness around the mouth, hands, or feet</li> <li>• New weakness or trouble breathing</li> <li>• Confusion or seizures</li> <li>• Sudden weight gain</li> <li>• Swelling of your arms, hands, legs, or ankles</li> <li>• New or worsening muscle weakness or cramps</li> <li>• Irregular, fast, or pounding heartbeat, or chest pain</li> <li>• Severe dizziness, fainting, or lightheadedness</li> <li>• Severe constipation or stomach-area (abdominal) pain</li> <li>• Sudden, severe joint pain, redness, or swelling (possible gout)</li> <li>• Severe flank or abdominal pain, blood in the urine, or difficulty urinating (possible kidney stone)</li> <li>• Little or no urine output or sudden weight gain from fluid</li> <li>• Fever, chills, or signs of infection</li> <li>• New or worsening kidney test results</li> </ul>

Select Rare Side Effects

Side Effect	Talk to Your Care Team if You Have Any of These Signs or Symptoms
Breakdown of Healthy Red Blood Cells Earlier Than Normal (Hemolytic Anemia)	<p>Hemolytic anemia can happen during treatment with alectinib. If this happens, you may not have enough healthy red blood cells. Your care team may temporarily stop alectinib and, if needed, do blood tests to check for this problem. If you develop hemolytic anemia, your care team may either restart you on alectinib at a lower dose once the hemolytic anemia resolves or stop your treatment with alectinib.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Severe tiredness, weakness, or pale skin</li> <li>• Dark or tea-colored urine</li> <li>• New or worsening yellow skin or eyes (jaundice)</li> <li>• Easy bruising or unusual bleeding</li> <li>• Decreased urine output or swelling</li> <li>• Shortness of breath, chest pain, confusion, or seizures</li> <li>• New high blood pressure or symptoms of stroke (sudden one-sided weakness or numbness; sudden confusion or trouble speaking; sudden vision changes; sudden severe headache; sudden trouble walking or loss of balance)</li> </ul>
Slow Heart Rate (Bradycardia)	<p>Alectinib may cause very slow heartbeats that can be severe. Your care team will check your heart rate and blood pressure during treatment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dizziness or lightheadedness</li> <li>• Fainting or near-fainting</li> <li>• Chest pain</li> <li>• Shortness of breath</li> <li>• Confusion or memory problems</li> <li>• Weakness, extreme tiredness</li> </ul>
Lung Problems	<p>Alectinib may cause severe or life-threatening swelling (inflammation) of the lungs during treatment. Symptoms may be similar to those of lung cancer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New or worsening trouble breathing</li> <li>• New or worsening cough</li> <li>• New or worsening shortness of breath</li> <li>• Fever of 100.4°F (38°C)</li> </ul>

**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, 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 **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 5 weeks after your last dose of alectinib.
    - 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 and for 3 months after your last dose of alectinib.
- **Do NOT breastfeed** during treatment and for 1 week after your last dose of alectinib.

**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**

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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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