

Ibrutinib

Care Team Contact Information: _____

Pharmacy Contact Information: _____

Diagnosis: _____

- This treatment is often used for:
 - Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) or small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL)
 - A type of blood cancer called Waldenström’s macroglobulinemia (WM)
 - Chronic graft-versus-host disease (cGVHD)
- 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
Ibrutinib (i-BROO-tih-nib): Imbruvica (im-BROO-vih-kuh)	Slows down or stops the growth of cancer cells by blocking a specific protein that helps them survive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capsule(s) taken by mouth. • Tablet(s) taken by mouth. • Oral suspension (liquid) taken by mouth.

Treatment Administration and Schedule: Ibrutinib may be used alone or in combination with other treatments. Talk with your care team about your exact treatment and schedule.

Your ibrutinib dosing instructions:

- Ibrutinib comes as capsules, tablets, and oral suspension.
 - There are 2 capsule strengths: 70 mg and 140 mg
 - There are 3 tablet strengths: 140 mg, 280 mg, and 420 mg
 - There is 1 oral suspension strength: 70 mg/mL
- Your dose is based on many factors, including your height and weight, overall health, and diagnosis.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking ibrutinib unless your care team tells you to.
- Your care team may tell you to decrease your dose, temporarily stop, or completely stop taking ibrutinib if you develop certain side effects.

Your ibrutinib dosing instructions continued:

- Swallow ibrutinib capsules or tablets whole with a glass of water. Do not open, break, or chew ibrutinib capsules. Do not cut, crush, or chew ibrutinib tablets.
- See the detailed Instructions for Use that comes with ibrutinib oral suspension for information about the correct way to take a dose. If you have questions about how to take ibrutinib oral suspension, talk to your care team. Do not use if the carton seal is broken or missing.
- Take ibrutinib 1 time a day, with or without food, at about the same time each day.
- If you miss a dose of ibrutinib, take it as soon as you remember on the same day. Take the next dose at the regular time on the next day. Do not take extra doses to make up for a missed dose.
- If you take too much ibrutinib, call your care team or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

Storage and Handling of Ibrutinib

- Ibrutinib Capsules and Tablets
 - Store ibrutinib capsules and tablets at room temperature between 68°F and 77°F (20°C and 25°C).
 - Keep ibrutinib capsules in the original container with the lid tightly closed.
 - Keep ibrutinib tablets in the original container.
- Ibrutinib Oral Suspension
 - Store ibrutinib oral suspension bottle between 36°F and 77°F (2°C and 25°C). Do not freeze.
 - Use ibrutinib oral suspension within 60 days after first opening the bottle. Throw away (discard) any unused portion 60 days after opening.
- Keep ibrutinib and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.
- Ask your care team how to safely throw away any unused ibrutinib.

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/> <hr/>
To help lower the risk of infections	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Other	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Common Side Effects

Side Effect	Important Information
Low White Blood Cell (WBC) Count (Neutropenia) and Increased Risk of Infection	<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>Low Platelet Count (Thrombocytopenia)</p>	<p>Description: Platelets help your blood clot and wounds heal. A low platelet count increases your risk of bruising and bleeding.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blow your nose gently and avoid picking it. • Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush and keep good oral hygiene. • Use an electric razor for shaving and a nail file instead of nail clippers. • Avoid over-the-counter medicines that can increase bleeding risk (for example, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like ibuprofen). • Talk with your care team or dentist before medical or dental procedures — you may need to pause treatment. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A nosebleed lasting more than 5 minutes despite pressure • A cut that continues to bleed • Heavy gum bleeding when brushing or flossing • Sudden or severe headache • Blood in your urine or stool • Blood in your spit after coughing
<p>Low Red Blood Cell (RBC) Count and Hemoglobin (Hgb) (Anemia)</p>	<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"> • Aim for 7 to 8 hours of sleep each night. • Do not drive, operate heavy machinery, or do other dangerous activities if you are very tired. • Balance activity and rest — stay as active as you can, but rest when needed. • Eat a balanced diet and follow any nutrition or supplement advice from your care team. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortness of breath • Dizziness or fainting • Fast or irregular heartbeats • Sudden or severe headache

<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"> • Routine exercise can help reduce fatigue. Talk with your care team to find the right type and amount of activity for you. • Ask family and friends for help with daily tasks and for emotional support. • Try healthy ways to feel better, such as meditation, journaling, yoga, or guided imagery, to reduce anxiety and improve well-being. • Aim for 7 to 8 hours of sleep each night. Limit daytime naps to help you sleep better at night. • Do not drive, operate heavy machinery, or do other potentially dangerous activities if you are very tired. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tiredness that affects your daily life or prevents you from doing normal activities • Tiredness that does not get better with rest • Dizziness or weakness along with severe tiredness
<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>Nausea and Vomiting</p>	<p>Description: Nausea is an uncomfortable feeling in your stomach or the need to throw up. You may or may not vomit.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eat smaller, more frequent meals. • Avoid fatty, fried, spicy, or highly sweet foods. • Eat bland foods at room temperature and drink clear liquids. • If you vomit, start with small sips of water, broth, or other clear liquids. If these stay down, try soft foods (such as gelatin, plain cornstarch pudding, yogurt, strained soup, or strained cooked cereal) and slowly return to solid foods. • Your care team may prescribe medicine for these symptoms. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vomiting for more than 24 hours • Nonstop vomiting • Signs of dehydration (very thirsty, dry mouth, dizziness, or dark urine) • Blood or coffee-ground-like appearance in your vomit • Severe stomach pain that does not go away after vomiting
<p>Muscle or Joint Pain or Weakness</p>	<p>Description: Muscle pain feels like soreness, aching, cramping, stiffness, tenderness, or weakness in one or more muscles. Joint pain is pain, stiffness, swelling, or reduced movement where two bones meet.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep a pain diary: note pain levels, locations, and activities that make it better or worse. • Do gentle exercise (walking, stretching, yoga) to maintain mobility and strength. Check with your care team before starting a new activity. • Use a warm compress for stiff muscles or a cold pack to reduce swelling and numb pain—use what helps the area. • Your care team may recommend or prescribe medicines, including over-the-counter pain relievers. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pain you cannot control with usual measures • Swelling, redness, or warmth in a joint • New weakness • Trouble walking or moving

Rash or Itchy Skin

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).

Recommendations:

- 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.
- Avoid sun exposure, especially between 10 AM and 4 PM, to lower the risk of sunburn.
- Wear long-sleeved clothing with ultraviolet (UV) protection and broad-brimmed hats.
- 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 medicines for symptoms.

Talk to your care team if you have:

- Rash or itching that continues to worsen

Select Rare Side Effects

Side Effect	Talk to Your Care Team if You Have Any of These Signs or Symptoms
Severe Bleeding (Hemorrhage)	<p>Bleeding problems are common during treatment with ibrutinib and can also be serious and may lead to death. Your risk of bleeding may increase if you are also taking a blood thinner medicine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red or black (looks like tar) stools • Pink or brown urine • Unexpected bleeding, or bleeding that is severe or that you cannot control • Vomiting blood or if your vomit looks like coffee-grounds • Coughing up blood or blood clots • Menstrual bleeding that is heavier than normal • Nose bleeds that happen often • Increased bruising, or small red or purple spots on the skin • Dizziness or lightheadedness • Weakness • Confusion • Change in your speech • Headache that lasts a long time or severe headache • Unusual vaginal bleeding
Heart Rhythm Problems (Cardiac Arrhythmias)	<p>Serious heart rhythm problems (ventricular arrhythmias, atrial fibrillation, and atrial flutter), heart failure, and death have happened in people treated with ibrutinib, especially in people who have an infection, an increased risk for heart disease, or have had heart rhythm problems in the past. Your heart function will be checked before and during treatment with ibrutinib.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast or irregular heartbeat • Lightheadedness • Dizziness • Feeling faint • Shortness of breath • Swelling of the feet, ankles, or legs • Chest discomfort
High Blood Pressure (Hypertension)	<p>High blood pressure usually doesn't have symptoms but can become serious. Your care team may prescribe you a blood pressure medicine or change your current blood pressure medicines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe or new headaches • Dizziness or lightheadedness • Blurred vision • Trouble breathing • Nosebleeds that do not stop • A pounding sensation in your chest, neck, or ears • Irregular or fast heartbeats • Chest pain or pressure
Tumor Lysis Syndrome (TLS)	<p>Tumor lysis happens when cancer cells break apart and flood your bloodstream with chemicals and toxins faster than your body can get rid of them. TLS is a group of conditions that affect your heart, kidneys, and muscles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea • Urinating smaller amounts or having dark-colored urine • Muscle cramps or twitching • Rapid heartbeats or chest pain • Confusion or weakness • Seizures
Liver Problems	<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

Risk of New Cancers	There is a risk of developing new cancers during or after treatment. Talk with your care team about this risk, and ask about the signs and symptoms of new cancers.
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**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 1 month after your last dose of ibrutinib.
 - 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 1 month after your last dose of ibrutinib.
- **Do NOT breastfeed** during treatment and for 7 days after your last dose of ibrutinib.

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.
- **You should not drink grapefruit juice, eat grapefruit, or eat Seville oranges (often used in marmalades)** during treatment with ibrutinib. These products may increase the amount of ibrutinib in your blood.
- **Higher risk of bleeding with surgery.** Tell your care team if you plan to have any surgery before starting or during treatment. Your care team may ask you to stop taking ibrutinib for 3 to 7 days before and after your surgery, depending on the type of surgery and your risk of bleeding.
- **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: April 8, 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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