

Lapatinib

Care Team Contact Information: _____

Pharmacy Contact Information: _____

Diagnosis: _____

- This treatment is often used for breast cancer.
- It may also be used for other reasons.
- Your care team will perform a test for human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) to make sure lapatinib is right for you.

Goal of Treatment: _____

- Treatment may continue 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
[Lapatinib (luh-PA-tih-nib): Tykerb (TY-kerb)]	Slows down or stops the growth of cancer cells by blocking specific proteins that helps them survive.	Tablets taken by mouth.

Treatment Administration and Schedule

Your lapatinib dosing instructions:

- Lapatinib comes in 1 tablet strength: 250 mg.
- Your dose might differ, but lapatinib is typically taken as 4 tablets (1,000 mg total dose) to 6 tablets (1,500 mg total dose) by mouth once daily.
- Take lapatinib 1 time each day, around the same time each day.
- Take lapatinib at least 1 hour before, or at least 1 hour after a meal.
- Swallow lapatinib tablets whole. Do not crush, cut, or dissolve the tablets.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking lapatinib unless your care team tells you to.
- Your care team may tell you to change your dose, temporarily stop, or completely stop taking lapatinib if you develop certain side effects.
- If you vomit or miss a dose of lapatinib, take your next dose at your regular time the next day. Do not take 2 doses to make up for a vomited or missed dose.
- If you take too much lapatinib, call your care team or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

Storage and Handling of Lapatinib

- Store lapatinib tablets at room temperature between 68°F and 77°F (20°C and 25°C).
- Do not keep lapatinib that is out of date or that you no longer need.
- Keep lapatinib and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.
- Ask your care team how to safely throw away any unused lapatinib.

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 prevent and treat diarrhea	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Other	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Common Side Effects

Side Effect	Important Information
<p>Liver Problems (Boxed Warning)</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>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>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 gradually 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

Diarrhea	<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
Skin Problems	<p>Description: Treatment can cause a rash with itchy, dry, red, or puffy skin.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a warm (not hot) bath or shower every day with mild, unscented soap or body wash. • Pat skin dry (instead of rubbing) with a towel. • Use unscented lotion or moisturizing cream immediately after showering to prevent cracking. • Use lip balm for dry or chapped lips. • Avoid activities that put you at risk for cuts, injuries or burns. • Use an electric shaver, not a razor, to prevent cuts. • Rinse cuts and scrapes immediately under running water and remove any debris from the wound. Wash the skin around the wound with soap. To avoid irritation, do not use soap on the wound. If you have a low platelet count and are at risk for bleeding issues, ask your care team how to care for cuts. • Avoid direct sun when possible. Wear a broad-spectrum sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher and reapply every 2 hours. • Use unscented, gentle laundry detergent. Some laundry detergents can irritate sensitive skin. • Your care team may recommend medicine for skin problems. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skin rash • Raised red bumps • Redness of the skin • Very dry skin that may affect the mucous membranes (such as mouth and eyes)

Select Rare Side Effects

Side Effect	Talk to Your Care Team if You Have Any of These Signs or Symptoms	
Heart Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swelling of your stomach area (abdomen), legs, hands, feet, or ankles Shortness of breath Nausea or vomiting New or worsening chest discomfort, including pain or pressure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weight gain Pain or discomfort in your arms, back, neck, or jaw Protruding neck veins Breaking out in a cold sweat Feeling lightheaded or dizzy
Changes in the Electrical Activity of Your Heart Called QT Prolongation	QT prolongation can cause irregular heartbeats that can be life-threatening. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feel faint, lightheaded, dizzy Fast or irregular heartbeat 	
Lung Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cough Shortness of breath 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chest pain or tightness

**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 week after your last dose of lapatinib.
 - 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 week after your last dose of lapatinib.
- Do NOT breastfeed** during treatment and for 1 week after your last dose of lapatinib.

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 or eat grapefruit during treatment with lapatinib.** Grapefruit may increase the amount of lapatinib in your blood.
- **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: July 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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