

Ponatinib

Care Team Contact Information: _____

Pharmacy Contact Information: _____

Diagnosis: _____

- This treatment is often used for:
 - Chronic myeloid leukemia (CML)
 - Philadelphia chromosome-positive acute lymphoblastic leukemia (Ph+ ALL)
- It may also be used for other reasons.
- Your care team may perform a test for a specific type of abnormal gene (T315I-positive) to make sure ponatinib 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
Ponatinib (poh-NA-tih-nib): Iclusig (i-KLOO-sig)	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 ponatinib dosing instructions:

- Ponatinib comes in four tablet strengths: 10 mg, 15 mg, 30 mg, and 45 mg.
- Your dose is based on many factors, including your overall health and diagnosis.
- Take ponatinib 1 time each day, around the same time each day.
- Take ponatinib with or without food.
- Swallow ponatinib tablets whole. Do not crush, break, cut, chew, or dissolve ponatinib tablets.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking ponatinib unless your care team tells you to.
- Your care team may tell you to change your dose, temporarily stop, or completely stop taking ponatinib if you develop certain side effects.

Treatment Administration and Schedule (Continued)

- If you miss a dose of ponatinib, take your next dose at your regularly scheduled time the next day. Do not take 2 doses at the same time to make up for a missed dose.
- If you vomit after taking a dose of ponatinib, do not make up the dose. Take your next dose at your regularly scheduled time.
- If you take too much ponatinib, call your care team or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

Storage and Handling of Ponatinib

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

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
<p>Blood Clots (Boxed Warning)</p>	<p>Description: A blood clot forms to stop bleeding when you have an injury, but it can also form inside blood vessels. If clots block blood flow, they may lead to serious health issues like heart attacks or strokes.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware of symptoms such as swelling, pain, warmth in the limbs, or sudden shortness of breath. • Stay active with regular, gentle exercise as approved by your care team. • Use compression stockings if recommended to promote blood flow. • Avoid prolonged immobility by taking breaks to move around. • Follow medication guidelines and take prescribed anticoagulants as directed. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swelling in one leg or arm, especially if it's accompanied by pain or tenderness • Pain or cramping in the leg that feels different from usual muscle soreness • Warmth or redness in the affected area • Sudden shortness of breath or difficulty breathing • Chest pain or discomfort that may worsen with deep breaths • Rapid or irregular heartbeat • Coughing up blood
<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"> • Talk to your care team if you have: • 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>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>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>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"> • Weigh yourself daily and keep a record to notice sudden weight gain. • Elevate swollen legs when sitting and avoid standing for long periods. • Wear compression stockings if your care team recommends them. • Limit salt (sodium) intake and follow any fluid restrictions your care team gives. • Stay active and do gentle movement to improve circulation. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swelling that suddenly worsens or spreads to other areas • Pain, redness, or warmth in the affected area • Signs of shortness of breath or difficulty breathing • Swelling is persistent and does not improve with home management • Unexpected weight gain • Note: Your care team may ask you to contact them if your weight increases by a certain amount over a certain time period.
<p>High Blood Pressure (Hypertension)</p>	<p>Description: High blood pressure means the force of blood against your artery walls is too high. Treatment can raise your blood pressure or make it harder to control.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise regularly, control your weight, and limit alcohol and salt (sodium). • Take blood pressure medicines as prescribed. Your care team may change your medicines if needed. • Your care team may ask you to check and record your blood pressure at home. Bring readings to appointments. • Follow diet and lifestyle advice from your care team. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</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
<p>High Cholesterol and Triglycerides Levels in Your Blood (Hyperlipidemia)</p>	<p>Description: Treatment can raise cholesterol and triglyceride levels in your blood. While cholesterol is needed by the body, high levels can increase the risk of heart disease. Triglycerides are blood fats and very high levels may raise the long-term risk of inflammation of your pancreas (pancreatitis) or heart problems.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt a diet low in saturated and trans fats, increase fiber intake, and engage in regular physical activity. • Maintain a healthy weight. • Get regular cholesterol tests and inform the care team of any significant changes. • Do not smoke and limit alcohol consumption. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symptoms of heart attack or stroke, such as sudden numbness, weakness, or chest pain

<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
<p>Low Appetite</p>	<p>Description: Loss of appetite can lead to weight loss and low energy. Small changes in when and what you eat can help maintain strength and nutrition.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be as active as you can. Do light physical activity before a meal (check with your care team before starting an exercise program). • Note times of day when your appetite is best and eat your largest meal then. • Eat 5–6 small meals or snacks each day. • Choose high-protein foods (beans, chicken, fish, meat, yogurt, tofu, eggs). Eat protein first during meals. • Choose higher-calorie foods (avoid “low-fat,” “fat-free,” or “diet” options when trying to gain/maintain weight). • If you feel full quickly, avoid drinking 30 minutes before a meal and drink liquids between meals; choose calorie-containing drinks rather than diet drinks. • Have a bedtime snack that’s easy to digest (for example, peanut butter and crackers). If you have reflux, wait at least 1 hour before lying down. • Try nutritious beverages (high-protein shakes or smoothies) if solid food is unappealing. • Ask your care team about liquid nutrition supplements and ways to add protein or calories (protein powder, yogurt, ice cream). <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unintentional weight loss • Little or no appetite for several days • Excessive tiredness or low energy

<p>Stomach-Area (Abdominal) Pain</p>	<p>Description: Abdominal pain is when you feel discomfort or pain in the belly area.</p> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe abdominal pain
<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"> • Track how often you have bowel movements each day. • Drink 8 to 10 glasses of fluids daily, unless your care team says otherwise. • Stay active and exercise regularly. • Eat more high-fiber foods (such as raw fruits, vegetables, and whole grains) unless advised otherwise. • Your care team may recommend laxatives such as polyethylene glycol (Miralax) or senna. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constipation lasting 3 or more days • No bowel movement 48 hours after using a laxative
<p>Headache</p>	<p>Description: Headaches are pain in your head that can vary in intensity, frequency, and location.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep a headache diary to track the frequency, duration, intensity, and triggers of your headaches. • Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water, as dehydration can contribute to headaches. • Apply a cold or warm compress to your forehead or neck to help ease headache pain. • Get adequate sleep (7 to 8 hours per night) and establish a regular sleep schedule. • Limit caffeine intake. • Your care team may recommend medicine for headaches. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe headache • More frequent or worsening headaches • Dizziness or feeling faint • Confusion • Changes in vision
<p>Eye Problems</p>	<p>Description: Eye problems are common with this treatment and can also be severe. Tell your care team right away if you develop any new or worsening eye problems.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your care team may recommend using artificial tears. • Stay well hydrated. • Use a humidifier in dry environments. • Wear sunglasses outdoors. • Avoid smoke, strong odors, and allergens. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry eyes • Increased tears • Blurred vision • Vision changes

<p>Muscle or Joint Pain or Weakness</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.</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
<p>Skin Problems</p>	<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)

<p>Low Phosphate Levels in Your Blood (Hypophosphatemia)</p>	<p>Description: Treatment may cause low levels of phosphate 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, cramps, or bone pain • Trouble breathing or shortness of breath • Confusion, slurred speech, or severe dizziness • Severe fatigue or inability to perform daily activities
<p>High Amylase and Lipase Levels in Your Blood</p>	<p>Description: Treatment may cause high levels of amylase and lipase in your blood. This may indicate a problem with your pancreas. 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"> • Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher • Fast heartbeat • Severe stomach-area (abdominal) pain that radiates to the back • Worsening pain after eating • Severe nausea or vomiting • Diarrhea • Yellowing of your skin or the white part of your eyes (jaundice)

<p>Changes in Electrolytes and Other Laboratory Results</p>	<p>Description: Treatment may cause high blood sugar and low calcium 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"> • Eat a well-balanced diet. • Limit sugary drinks and foods. • Eat smaller, more frequent meals. • Be physically active for at least 30 minutes most days. • 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. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent urination • Drowsiness • Increased thirst • Loss of appetite • Blurred vision • Fruity smell on your breath • Confusion • Nausea, vomiting, or stomach pain • It becomes harder to control your blood sugar • Frequent urination • Drowsiness • Increased thirst • Loss of appetite • Blurred vision • Fruity smell on your breath • Confusion • Nausea, vomiting, or stomach pain • It becomes harder to control your blood sugar
---	---

Select Rare Side Effects

Side Effect	Talk to Your Care Team if You Have Any of These Signs or Symptoms	
Heart Problems (Boxed Warning)	<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
Heart Rhythm Problems (Cardiac Arrhythmia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast or irregular heartbeat • Dizziness • Feeling faint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chest discomfort • Shortness of breath
Severe Bleeding (Hemorrhage)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vomiting blood or if your vomit looks like coffee-grounds • Pink or brown urine • Red or black (looks like tar) stools • Coughing up blood or blood clots • Menstrual bleeding that is heavier than normal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unusual vaginal bleeding • Nose bleeds that happen often • Bruising • Lightheadedness
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)
Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy Syndrome (PRES)	A neurologic condition called PRES can happen during treatment with ponatinib. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe headache • Confusion • Weakness • Seizures • Blindness or change in vision 	
Numbness, Tingling, or Burning in Your Hands or Feet (Peripheral Neuropathy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New or worsening “pins and needles,” burning, or numbness in your hands or feet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trouble moving your arms or legs or weakness • Problems with balance or frequent falls

<p>Tumor Lysis Syndrome (TLS)</p>	<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
-----------------------------------	---

**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, your care team will do a pregnancy test before you start taking ponatinib.
 - Use an effective method of birth control during treatment and for 3 weeks after your last dose of ponatinib.
 - 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 ponatinib.
- **Do NOT breastfeed** during treatment and for 1 week after your last dose of ponatinib.

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 ponatinib.** Grapefruit may increase the amount of ponatinib in your blood.
- **Wound healing problems.** Wound healing problems have happened in some people who take ponatinib. Tell your care team if you plan to have any surgery before or during treatment with ponatinib.
 - You should stop taking ponatinib at least 1 week before planned surgery.
 - Your care team should tell you when you may start taking ponatinib again after surgery.
- **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: May 14, 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.

This guide does not cover all existing information related to the possible uses, directions, doses, precautions, warnings, interactions, adverse effects, or risks associated with this medication and should not substitute for the advice of a qualified healthcare professional. Provision of this guide is for informational purposes only and does not constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation, or favoring of this medication by ACCC, HOPA, NCODA, or ONS, who assume no liability for and cannot ensure the accuracy of the information presented. All decisions related to taking this medication should be made with the guidance and under the direction of a qualified healthcare professional.

Permission: Patient Education Sheets are provided as a free educational resource for patients with cancer and their caregivers in need of concise, easy to understand information about cancer therapy. Healthcare providers are permitted to copy and distribute the sheets to patients as well as direct patients to the Patient Education Sheets website. However, commercial reproduction or reuse, as well as rebranding or reposting of any type, are strictly prohibited without permission of the copyright holders. Permission requests, including direct linking from Electronic Health Records, and licensing inquiries should be emailed to patienteducationsheets@ncoda.org.

Copyright © 2026 by Network for Collaborative Oncology Development & Advancement, Inc. All rights reserved.

PES-207