How drug is given: by mouth

Purpose: Stop growth of cancer cells in lung cancer, pancreatic cancer, and other cancers

How to take the drug by mouth

- Take dose at least 1 hour before food or at least 2 hours after food.

- Swallow each tablet whole; do not chew them. If you are unable to swallow the tablet, the pharmacist will give you specific instructions.

- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular dosing schedule. Do not double dose.

- Erlotinib can interfere with many drugs, which may change how this works in your body. Talk with your doctor before starting any new medicines or pills, including over-the-counter drugs, natural products, herbal supplements, or vitamins.

- Erlotinib can interact with warfarin (Coumadin®). You will need to have your INR tested more frequently.

- Do not drink grapefruit juice or eat grapefruit. Also, do not take St. John’s wort. Consuming these may increase the amount of medication in your body and worsen side effects.

Storage

- Store this medicine at room temperature, away from heat and moisture. Keep this medicine in its original container, out of the reach of children and pets.

- If you have unused oral chemotherapy pills (tablets or capsules), please return them to the pharmacy where the prescription was filled. Do not flush them down the toilet, dump in the sink, or throw away in the trash.
Things that may occur during or within a few hours of treatment

1. Skin changes may occur, such as redness or a rash (sometimes looks like acne). This will most likely appear on your face, chest, or back. It may be itchy, inflamed, and could become infected. If any skin changes occur, please talk with your doctor or nurse. There are drugs that can help with skin changes. Stay out of the sun and do not use over-the-counter acne products.

2. Loose stools or diarrhea may occur after the drug is given (within a few days after the drug is started). You may take loperamide (Imodium A-D®) to help control diarrhea. You can buy this at most drug stores. It is also important to drink more fluids (water, juice, sports drinks). If these do not help within 24 hours, call your doctor or nurse.

3. Mild to moderate nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, and/or stomach pain may occur. Drugs to help with this may be given to you.

4. Some patients may feel very tired, also known as fatigue. You may need to rest or take naps more often. Mild to moderate exercise can also help you maintain your energy. (You may also be less interested in doing your usual activities.)

5. You may get a fever, even when you do not have an infection. Your muscles may ache or be tired. Please discuss treatment options with your doctor or nurse. If you have a fever of 100.5°F (38°C) or higher, chills, a cough, or any bleeding problems, call your doctor or nurse right away.

6. Rarely, your liver may be affected by this drug. In such cases, your skin may turn yellow and a yellow coloring may be seen in the whites of your eyes. You may have pain in your right side. You may feel more tired. If you have any of these symptoms, please tell your doctor or nurse right away.

7. Rarely, problems with your lungs could occur. If you have new onset of difficulty breathing, cough, or fever, please call your doctor or nurse right away.

Fertility and Related Precautions

- It is very important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug could be harmful to an unborn baby.
- Women should not breast-feed while taking this drug.
- If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your doctor or nurse.

The above information includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects in this teaching sheet may not be the same ones you experience. Your side effects may be different, depending on how often you receive treatment (your schedule) and how much you receive each time (your dosage). Side effects may also vary if you take other medications. Please talk
with your doctor or nurse if you have questions about possible side effects you may experience. This document should not take the place of conversations with members of your health care team.

If you experience any significant change in your health during or after treatment, contact a member of your health care team right away.

Managing your oral chemotherapy schedule at home can be challenging. To help you with this, consider using tools to help you keep track of your schedule and any side effects you may have. You can find these tools online at [www.dana-farber.org/OralChemoDiary](http://www.dana-farber.org/OralChemoDiary).

**THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS OR NOTES FOR THE PATIENT AND FAMILY:**