How drug is given: by mouth

Purpose: stops growth of cancer cells in breast cancer and other cancers

How to take the drug by mouth

- Take this medication on an empty stomach (at least 1 hour before food or 2 hours after food). Swallow each tablet whole; do not crush or chew. 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.

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

- Do not drink grapefruit juice or eat grapefruit while taking this drug. Also, do not take St. John’s wort. 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 down the toilet, dump in the sink, or throw away in the trash.

Things that may occur during treatment

1. The palms of your hands or the soles of your feet may become red and painful. This is called hand-foot syndrome. Tingling and peeling of the skin may occur. Avoid tight fitting shoes. Use thick (moisturizing) creams on hands and feet.
2. Loose stools or diarrhea may occur. You can take loperamide (Imodium A-D®) to help control diarrhea. You may 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, and loss of appetite may occur. You may be given medicine to help with this.

4. Your blood cell counts may drop. This is known as bone marrow suppression. This includes a decrease in your:
   - Red blood cells, which carry oxygen in your body to help give you energy
   - White blood cells, which fight infection in your body
   - Platelets, which help clot the blood to stop bleeding

   If you have a fever of 100.5°F (39°C) or higher, chills, a cough, or any bleeding problems, call your doctor or nurse right away.

5. Some patients may feel very tired, also known as fatigue. You may need to rest or take naps more often. Mild to moderate exercise may also help you maintain your energy.

6. Skin changes, such as a rash, dryness, or itching, may occur. Ask your doctor or nurse what lotions or creams you may use to help with this.

7. 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.

**Things that may occur after treatment ends (even months to years later)**

- 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 receiving 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 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.