**Sorafenib (Nexavar®)**
(“sor AF e nib”)

**How the drug is given:** by mouth

**Purpose:** stops the growth of cancer cells in kidney cancer, liver cancer, and other cancers

**How to take the drug by mouth**

- Take on an empty stomach with a full glass of water.
- Take dose at least 1 hour before food or at least 2 hours after food.
- Swallow each tablet whole; do not crush or 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.**
- Sorafenib 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, herbals or vitamins.

**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.

**Things that may occur during treatment**

1. You may get a headache. Please talk to your doctor or nurse about what you can take for this.
2. Loose stools or diarrhea may occur within 3 days after the drug is given. You may 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, tell your doctor or nurse.
3. Mild to moderate nausea and/or vomiting or stomach pain may occur. Drugs to help with this may be given to you.
4. Loss of appetite may occur; this may lead to weight loss. Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have questions or concerns.
5. Skin changes may occur, such as dryness or a rash on your body or arms and legs. Ask your doctor or nurse what lotions or creams you may use.

6. The palms of your hands or the soles of your feet may become red and painful (called hand-foot syndrome). Tingling and peeling of the skin may occur. This happens more often with long infusions. Avoid tight fitting shoes and use thick (moisturizing) creams on hands and feet.

7. Your blood pressure may go up. If this happens, you may be given medication to help with this. If you have headaches or dizziness, let your doctor or nurse know right away.

8. 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, **tell your doctor or nurse right away**.

9. You may get some hair thinning.

10. 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 be helpful in maintaining your energy. Talk with your doctor or nurse.

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

1. 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 sorafenib. If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your doctor or nurse.

2. In rare cases, this drug may affect your heart function.

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: