



Anti-cancer treatment (hormonal): Abiraterone Acetate (Zytiga®) Abiraterone Acetate micronized (Yonsa®)

Pronounced: " *a-bir-A-ter-one AS-e-tate*"

How drug is given: By mouth

Purpose: To stop the growth of cancer cells in prostate cancer

How to take this drug

- This drug is taken in two different ways and depends on the form.
 - **Zytiga®** should be taken on an empty stomach, at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after food.
 - **Yonsa®** can be taken with or without food.
- Swallow tablets whole with a full glass of water, do not crush or chew tablets.
- 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.**
- Abiraterone can interfere with many drugs, which may change how this works in your body. Talk with your doctor before starting any new medication or supplement, including over-the-counter drugs, natural products, herbal supplements, and vitamins.
- Wash hands after taking the medication. Avoid handling crushed or broken tablets.

Storage and disposal

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

- Your body may not be able to get rid of extra fluid. This is called edema. You may notice some swelling in your arms or legs.
- Loose stools or diarrhea may occur after the drug is given. You may take loperamide (ImodiumA-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 cancer care team.

- You may feel pain or weakness, swelling, or stiffness in your joints or muscles. If these bother you, ask your cancer care team what type of drugs you may use to help with this pain.
- This drug may cause a change in your blood sugar and/or cholesterol levels. Normal levels usually return after treatment is stopped.
- Mild constipation may occur after treatment begins. Be sure to drink more fluids and get more fiber in your diet by eating fresh fruits and vegetables. A daily stool softener, such as docusate (Colace®), and/or laxatives, such as senna (Senakot®), may be helpful. If these do not help within 48 hours, tell your cancer care team. Do not use bulk-forming laxatives such as Metamucil® without first talking with your cancer care team.
- Your blood pressure may go up. If this happens, you may be given medication to help with this. If you have headaches or dizziness, tell your cancer care team right away.
- Your liver may be affected by this drug. In such cases, your skin might 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 notice any of these symptoms, tell your cancer care team right away.
- You may experience hot flashes or warmth or redness of the face that comes on suddenly.
- 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.
- This medicine may reduce the number of healthy red blood cells in your body. This can lead to anemia. Symptoms can begin with tiredness and progress to severe dizziness and shortness of breath. Call your cancer team right away if you have shortness of breath, a fast heartbeat, dizziness, or confusion.
- Some important minerals called electrolytes are found in your blood and body fluids. They can be affected by this medicine. Your cancer care team will check your blood work periodically to monitor your potassium, magnesium and sodium levels.

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

Fertility and related precautions

- It is very important to use birth control while taking this drug and for 3 months after stopping the drug,
- It is very important to use birth control if you are having sex with a woman of child-bearing age, because this drug may be harmful to an unborn baby.
- If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your cancer care team.

The information in this document includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects listed here 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 are taking other medications. Please speak with your cancer care team if you have questions about possible side effects you may experience. This document should not take the place of conversations with members of your cancer care team. If you experience any significant change in your health during or after treatment, contact a member of your cancer care team right away.