

## Possible Side Effects (*continued*):

### Nausea and Vomiting

#### What to do:

- Call your doctor if you are not able to keep down fluids for more than 24 hours or if you feel lightheaded or dizzy.
- Eat small meals or snacks often during the day. Stay away from spicy or high-fat foods.
- Drink water during the day.
- Call your doctor if your nausea makes you unable to take this medicine.

### Difficulty Breathing or Cough

#### What to do:

- Call your doctor if you have any change in your ability to breath.
- Tell your doctor if you have a cough that will not go away.

### Vision Changes

#### What to do:

- Call your doctor if you have any eye pain or changes in your vision.

**This is not a complete list of all possible side effects. Tell your doctor if you have these or any other side effects that you think are caused by this medicine. Your James health care team will give you further help to manage side effects.**

## PATIENT EDUCATION

# Taking Your Treatment Home

## What you need to know about your Anti-Cancer Medicine

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### Erlotinib (Tarceva)

This brochure has important information on how to use, handle and store your medicine, what side effects to look for and how to manage those side effects.

**What it looks like:** Round, white tablets; 25 mg, 100 mg and 150 mg

#### How to handle and store:

- **There are special safe handling instructions for this medicine.** Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse about the precautions you need to follow when you take this medicine at home.
- Store in a closed container at room temperature in a dry place such as a cabinet away from light, heat and moisture.
- **Do not** store in your bathroom or refrigerator.
- Keep this medicine away from children and **do not** share it with anyone.

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**How to take:**

- Take one time each day, at the same time each day. **Do not** take with food.
- Swallow the tablet whole with a full glass of water.
- **Take 1 hour before or 2 hours after you eat.**
- **Do not** crush, break or chew the tablet.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is close to the time for your next dose, skip the missed dose. **Do not double up on doses.**
- **Do not** take more tablets than ordered by your doctor.

**Disposal:**

- Talk with your doctor or pharmacist about how to get rid of prescription medicines safely.

**Precautions:**

- Tell your doctor or pharmacist about any medicines you are taking, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins and herbal products.
- **Do not eat grapefruit or drink grapefruit juice.** This can increase your risk of side effects
- **Do not** take St. John's Wort.
- **Do not get pregnant while on this medicine.** Talk with your doctor about what birth control to use.

**Possible Side Effects**

You can find more information on side effects in the Patient Education booklet, *Treatment with Chemotherapy and Anti-Cancer Medicines*.

**Skin Rash****What to do:**

- Call your doctor if you get a rash. Tell your doctor when the rash started, the location of your rash, if it is itchy or painful and if the rash has spread or is getting worse.
- Use a fragrance-free, dye-free moisturizer on your skin 2 times a day.
- Protect your skin from sunlight. Wear clothes to cover your skin and use sunscreen (at least SPF 30).
- **Do not** use acne medicines or drying agents on your rash, they can make your rash worse.
- Your doctor may tell you to use an over-the-counter medicine (hydrocortisone or clindamycin gel) to help with this problem.

**Diarrhea****What to do:**

- Call your doctor if this happens more than 4 times in a day, or lasts for more than 1 to 2 days or if you feel lightheaded or dizzy.
- Unless told otherwise, drink extra fluids during the day.
- Your doctor may tell you to take a medicine called Loperamide (Imodium). It is important to follow your doctor's orders for taking this medicine, not the instructions on the box.

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