

## Possible Side Effects (*continued*):

### Rash

#### What to do:

- Call your doctor if you get a rash.
- Protect your skin and use sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher) when you take this medicine.
- **Do not** use strong detergents or use strong soaps on areas with the rash.

### Diarrhea

#### What to do:

- Drink extra fluids during the day.
- 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.

### Low White Blood Cells/Preventing Infection

#### What to do:

- Call your doctor if you have a fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) or higher.
- Wash your hands often.
- If you are told you have a low white blood cell count, stay away from people who are sick or do not feel well.

### Bleeding/Bruising/Black Stools

#### What to do:

- Call your doctor if you have bruising, bleeding, black stools or sudden or severe stomach pain.
- **Do not** use aspirin, ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), or naproxen (Aleve) for regular aches and pains.

**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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### Imatinib (Gleevec)

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

**What it looks like:** Film-coated, dark-yellow or brownish-orange scored tablets

#### 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 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.

The James



**How to take:**

- Swallow the tablet whole with a full glass of water at the same time each day. **Take this medicine with food.**
- If you are unable to swallow the tablet whole, you may dissolve it in a small glass of water or apple juice right before you take the medicine.
- **Do not** take more tablets than ordered by your doctor.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember it. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose. **Do not double up on doses.**

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

**Possible Side Effects**

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

**Swelling/Fluid Retention**

**What this means:** You may see swelling around your eyes or in your hands, feet or lower legs. You may also gain weight.

**What to do:**

- Call your doctor if you have any swelling or major weight gain.
- Call your doctor if you have shortness of breath.

**Nausea and Vomiting****What to do:**

- Eat small meals or snack often during the day. Stay away from spicy or high-fat foods.
- Drink water during the day.
- Call your doctor if you are unable to keep liquids down for more than 24 hours or if you feel lightheaded or dizzy.
- Call your doctor if your nausea makes you unable to take this medicine.

**Muscle Pain****What to do:**

- Talk to your doctor before you take any over-the-counter pain medicine.
- Drink water during the day.
- Get enough sleep.
- **Do not** lift heavy objects.
- Call your doctor if your muscle pain makes you unable to do your normal daily activities.

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