

Neratinib

What is Neratinib (ne-RA-ti-nib) and how does it work?

Neratinib is a type of oral, targeted cancer therapy called a “tyrosine kinase inhibitor”. Another name for this medicine is Nerlynx. This medicine dissolves in your digestive system and gets absorbed into your blood. Neratinib finds cancer cells that have HER2 receptors. Once inside the cancer cell, it can prevent the cell from dividing and making new cancer cells. Neratinib is made in a laboratory.

What should I tell my doctor before I take this medicine?

Talk to your doctor about the following:

- If you have ever had chemotherapy or anti-cancer treatment and the names of the medicines you were given.
- If you have ever had liver problems.
- If you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant. Your doctor will talk with you about birth control when you take this medicine.
- If you are breastfeeding.
- If you have been told to start a new medicine.
- The medicines/pills you take including:
 - ▶ Medicines ordered by any of your doctors
 - ▶ Herbs, including St. John’s Wort
 - ▶ Vitamins
 - ▶ Over-the-counter medicines
 - ▶ Medicines that decrease stomach acid such as proton pump inhibitors (PPIs), histamine-2 receptors antagonist (H2RAs), or antacids

This handout is for informational purposes only. Talk with your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

How does my doctor decide my treatment dose?

- To determine your treatment dose, your doctor and pharmacist will review your lab results, the medicines you take, how well your liver works and any other health problems you have.
- This medicine is taken by mouth 1 time each day with food. Patients usually take this medicine for 1 year. You will see your doctor or nurse practitioner about every 4 weeks when you take this medicine.

How do I handle, store and dispose of Neratinib?

- 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 the medicine in a closed container at room temperature, away from heat, moisture, and direct light.
- **Do not** store in your bathroom or in your refrigerator.
- Keep this medicine away from children and **do not** share it with anyone.
- Talk to your pharmacist about how to get rid (dispose) of your prescription medicines safely.

How do I take Neratinib?

There is a check (✓) in the box by your dose of Neratinib

- 240 mg (6 tablets)
- 200 mg (5 tablets)
- 160 mg (4 tablets)
- **Do not** crush, break, or chew the tablets.
- Take this medicine **with food** 1 time each day, at the same time each day.
- Swallow the tablets whole with a full glass of water.
- If you miss a dose, wait until it is time for your next dose, and skip the missed dose. **Do not double up on doses.**
- Your doctor may change your dose in the future to find out what works best for you. Taking a lower dose of Neratinib does not mean the medicine will not work.

- **Do not eat grapefruit or drink grapefruit juice, star fruit, or Seville oranges.** These can increase your risk of side effects.
- **Do not take proton pump inhibitors (PPIs).** Examples include omeprazole (Prilosec), lansoprazole (Prevacid), esomeprazole (Nexium). These antacids can affect how well Neratinib works.
- **If you take histamine-2 receptor antagonists (H2RAs),** such as ranitidine (Zantac) or famotidine (Pepcid), **take Neratinib 2 hours before or 10 hours after taking the H2RA.**
- **If you take short-acting antacids,** such as Mylanta, Maalox, or Tums, or a calcium supplement for your bones, **take Neratinib 3 hours before or after taking the antacid or calcium.**

What are the side effects of this treatment?

Every person responds differently to treatment. Some of the more common side effects of this chemotherapy are:

- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting
- Stomach pain, bloating or feeling “full”
- Decreased appetite and weight loss
- Fatigue or weakness
- Muscle spasms
- Rash or dry skin
- Changes in your nails (color changes or swelling around your nails)
- Urinary tract infections

When should I call my doctor?

You should call your doctor right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) or higher

A fever can be life threatening if not treated. Your doctor may ask you to go to the hospital.

- Chills, sore throat, cough or a wound that does not get better
- Open sores on your lips, tongue or in your mouth
- Nausea that makes you unable to eat or drink
- Bleeding or bruising, including bloody or black stools or blood in your urine
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Yellowing of your skin or eyes
- Chest pain, fast or irregular heartbeat
- Diarrhea that does not go away after 24 hours of taking Loperamide

How should I manage diarrhea?

- Loperamide (Imodium AD) should be taken for at least the first 2 months to prevent the diarrhea. The goal is for you to have 1 to 2 bowel movements each day. Take loperamide as follows:

Weeks 1 to 2 (days 1 to 14) Start: End:	4 mg - 3 times each day (or as directed by doctor)
Weeks 3 to 8 (days 15 to 56) Start: End:	4 mg - 2 times each day (or as directed by doctor)
Weeks 9 to 52 (days 57 to 365) If Loperamide needs to be continued.	Up to 16 mg each day (or as directed by doctor)

- Your doctor may order budesonide (Entocort) for the first month of treatment to help prevent diarrhea. Take 3 capsules (9 mg) of budesonide 1 time each morning.
- If diarrhea starts, even while you take Loperamide as listed above, follow the steps below:
 - ▶ Take 2 mg every 2 hours during the day.
 - ▶ Take 4 mg at bedtime, and 4 mg every 4 hours until morning.
 - ▶ Stop when you have not had a bowel movement for 12 hours. Then go back to following the chart above to prevent more diarrhea.

- Your doctor may talk to you about other medicines to control diarrhea.
- Drink 8 to 10 cups of non-caffeinated fluid each day to stay hydrated during treatment.
- Eat small meals or snacks often during the day. Stay away from eating big meals.
- **Do not** eat foods that are high in fiber, greasy, spicy, fatty or fried.
- Follow the **BRAT diet (Bananas, Rice, Applesauce, Toast)**

For more information about cancer, chemotherapy, side effects or how to take care of yourself during treatment, refer to your **Chemotherapy and You** book, or ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

You may also find it helpful to watch The James Patient Education videos at <http://cancer.osu.edu/patientedvideos> to help you learn tips for managing treatment side effects.