

ORAL CANCER TREATMENT EDUCATION



PASSION FOR PATIENTS
NCODA.ORG



ABEMACICLIB

Name of your medication

Generic name — abemaciclib (uh-BEH-muh-SY-klib)

Brand name — Verzenio™ (ver-ZEH-nee-oh)

Common uses

Abemaciclib is used to treat adult patients with hormone receptor (HR)–positive, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2)–negative breast cancer.

Abemaciclib may also be used for other treatments.

Dose and schedule

Taking abemaciclib as instructed is important to allow your treatment to be as effective as possible, so here are some key points to remember.

- ☐ Your dose may vary, but the usual dose of abemaciclib is 150 milligrams (150 mg) to be taken by mouth twice daily when given in combination with fulvestrant or an aromatase inhibitor. When abemaciclib is given alone as monotherapy, the usual dose is 200 milligrams (200 mg) taken by mouth twice daily. The dose may be adjusted by your care provider based upon your individual needs.
- ☐ Abemaciclib can be taken with or without food, but at the same times each day.
- ☐ Abemaciclib should be taken whole and not crushed, cut, or dissolved. If you are unable to swallow abemaciclib, talk to your care provider or pharmacist for possible options.
- ☐ If you miss a dose of abemaciclib, do not take an extra dose or two doses at one time. Simply take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time.
- ☐ Be sure to write down if you miss a dose and let your care provider know about any missed doses.

ORAL CANCER TREATMENT EDUCATION



PASSION FOR PATIENTS
NCODA.ORG



ABEMACICLIB

Drug and food interactions

- ☐ Abemaciclib has the potential for drug interactions. Inform your care provider of all prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, vitamins, and herbal products that you are taking.
- ☐ Grapefruit or grapefruit juice may interact with abemaciclib. Avoid eating or drinking these during your treatment with abemaciclib.
- ☐ Talk with your care provider or pharmacist before taking new medications or supplements, or receiving any vaccines.

Storage and handling

- ☐ Store abemaciclib at room temperature (68°F–77°F) in a dry location away from light.
- ☐ Keep abemaciclib out of reach of children and pets.

ORAL CANCER TREATMENT EDUCATION



PASSION FOR PATIENTS
NCODA.ORG



ABEMACICLIB

Side Effects of Abemaciclib

Below are common side effects that have been known to happen in about one third or more of patients taking abemaciclib are listed on the left side of this table. You MAY NOT experience these side effects. Options to help manage any side effects that do occur are included on the right side of this table. These should be discussed with your care provider. If you experience any side effect you cannot manage or that is not listed here, contact your care provider.

Possible Side Effect	Management
Changes in kidney function	Your kidney (renal) function should be checked periodically by a simple blood test. Contact your care provider if you notice any of the following: • Decreased amount of urination • Unusual swelling in your legs and feet
Diarrhea (loose and/or urgent bowel movements)	Monitor how many bowel movements you have each day. • Drink 8–10 glasses of water or fluid each day unless your care provider has instructed you to limit your fluid intake due to some other health problem. • Eat small, frequent meals throughout the day rather than a few large meals. • Eat bland, low-fiber foods, such as bananas, applesauce, potatoes, chicken, rice, and toast. • Avoid high-fiber foods, such as raw vegetables, raw fruits, and whole grains. • Avoid foods that cause gas, such as broccoli and beans. • Avoid lactose-containing foods, such as yogurt and milk. • Avoid spicy, fried, and greasy foods. Contact your provider if any of the following occur: • The number of bowel movements you have in a day increases by four or more. • You feel dizzy or lightheaded. Your care provider may recommend an over-the-counter medication called loperamide (Imodium®) to help with your diarrhea, but talk to your care provider before starting this medication.

Continued on the next page

ORAL CANCER TREATMENT EDUCATION



PASSION FOR PATIENTS
NCODA.ORG



ABEMACICLIB

Possible Side Effect	Management
Decreased white blood cells (WBCs) and increased risk for infection	Your WBCs should be monitored by a simple blood test. When your WBCs are low, you are at a greater risk of having an infection. Take the following precautions to protect yourself from infection. • Wash your hands often, especially before eating and after using the bathroom. • Avoid crowds and people with fevers, flu, or other infection. • Bathe regularly to keep good personal hygiene. Contact your care provider if you experience any signs or symptoms of an infection: • Fever (temperature more than 100.4°F or 38°C) • Chills • Sore throat • Burning with urination • Unusual tiredness • A sore that becomes red, is draining, or does not heal Check with your care provider before taking any medicine for a fever or chills.
Decreased hemoglobin, part of the red blood cells that carry iron and oxygen	Your hemoglobin should be monitored by a simple blood test. When your hemoglobin is low, you may notice that you get tired or fatigued more easily. • Try to get 7–8 hours of sleep per night. • Avoid operating heavy machinery if you feel too tired. • Find a balance between work and rest. • Stay as active as possible, but know that it is okay to rest as needed. • You might notice that you are more pale than usual. Let your care provider know right away if you experience any of the following: • Shortness of breath • Dizziness • Palpitations
Fatigue	You may be more tired than usual or have less energy. • Stay as active as possible, but know it is okay to rest as needed. • Try to do some activity every day. • Plan your activities, and do them at a time of day when you feel a bit more energetic. • Avoid operating heavy machinery if you feel too tired.

Continued on the next page

ORAL CANCER TREATMENT EDUCATION



PASSION FOR PATIENTS
NCODA.ORG



ABEMACICLIB

Possible Side Effect	Management
Nausea or vomiting	• Eat and drink slowly. • Drink 8–10 glasses of water or fluid each day unless your care provider has instructed you to limit your fluid intake. • Eat small, frequent meals throughout the day rather than a few large meals. • Eat bland foods; avoid spicy, fried, and greasy foods. • Avoid vigorous exercise immediately after eating. • Don't lie down immediately after eating. • Avoid strong odors. Let your provider know if you experience nausea or vomiting. Your provider may prescribe medication to help with the nausea or vomiting.
Changes in liver function	Your liver function should be checked periodically by a simple blood test. Contact your care provider if you notice any of the following: • Yellowing of the skin or whites of your eyes • Dark or brown urine • Bleeding or bruising
Decreased appetite or weight loss	Talk to your care provider if you notice a decrease in weight while taking this medication. When you do not feel like eating, try the following: • Small, frequent meals instead of three large meals each day • Keep snacks nearby so you can eat when you feel hungry. • Take liquid nutritional supplements. • Drink 8–10 glasses of water or fluid each day, especially if you are not eating, unless your care provider has instructed you to limit your fluid intake.
Abdominal pain	Abdominal pain or discomfort may occur. Report any serious pain or symptoms to your care provider immediately.

Continued on the next page

ORAL CANCER TREATMENT EDUCATION



PASSION FOR PATIENTS
NCODA.ORG



ABEMACICLIB

Possible Side Effect	Management
Decreased platelet count and increased risk of bleeding	Your platelets should be monitored by a simple blood test. When they are low, you may bruise or bleed more easily than usual. • Use caution to avoid bruises, cuts, or burns. • Blow your nose gently, and do not pick your nose. • Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush, and maintain good oral hygiene. • When shaving, use an electronic razor instead of razor blades. • Use a nail file instead of nail clippers. Call your care provider if you have bleeding that won't stop. Examples include the following: • A bloody nose that bleeds for more than five minutes despite pressure • A cut that continues to ooze despite pressure • Gums that bleed excessively when you floss or brush Seek medical help immediately if you experience any severe headaches, observe blood in your urine or stool, cough up blood, or experience prolonged and uncontrollable bleeding. You may need to take a break or "hold" your medication for medical or dental procedures. Talk to your care provider or dentist before any scheduled procedures.

Serious side effects of abemaciclib

- ☐ Abemaciclib can increase your risk of having a blood clot. Seek immediate medical attention if you have sudden swelling in an arm or leg, have chest pain, or have trouble breathing.
- ☐ Abemaciclib may cause your lung tissue to scar, which is called interstitial lung disease. Call your care team if you are feeling short of breath, have a fever, or have a lasting dry cough.

If you experience ANY uncontrolled side effect, call your physician or healthcare center immediately:

____ (INSTITUTIONAL CONTACT INFO)

ORAL CANCER TREATMENT EDUCATION



PASSION FOR PATIENTS
NCODA.ORG



ABEMACICLIB

Pregnancy, sexual activity, and contraception

- ☐ Women should not become pregnant and men should not get a partner pregnant while taking abemaciclib. Women of childbearing age and potential should use effective contraception during therapy and for a minimum of 3 weeks after the last dose of abemaciclib. Men of reproductive age and potential should use effective contraception during therapy with abemaciclib
- ☐ Abemaciclib may impair fertility in males of reproductive potential.
- ☐ Effective contraception could include 1 or more of the following: oral contraceptive, barrier methods, etc.
- ☐ Do not breastfeed while taking abemaciclib and for 3 weeks after the last dose of abemaciclib.
- ☐ Please inform your care provider if you become pregnant.
- ☐ It is safe to hug and kiss. Special precautions may be needed for sexual activity while on abemaciclib, and you are encouraged to ask your care provider.

Obtaining medication

- ☐ Talk with your care provider about the process for obtaining your abemaciclib.

(PHARMACY OR SPECIALTY PHARMACY CONTACT INFO)

Additional resources

Product website: www.verzenio.com

Product prescribing information: <http://uspl.lilly.com/verzenio/verzenio.html#pi>

Product resources: www.verzenio.com/savings-support

Updated – August 19, 2025

ORAL CANCER TREATMENT EDUCATION



PASSION FOR PATIENTS
NCODA.ORG



ABEMACICLIB

Additional instructions

Important notice: The Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC), Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA), National Community Oncology Dispensing Association, Inc. (NCODA), and Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) have collaborated in gathering information for and developing this patient education guide. This guide represents a brief summary of the medication derived from information provided by the drug manufacturer and other resources. This guide does not cover all existing information related to the possible uses, directions, doses, precautions, warnings, interactions, adverse effects, or risks associated with this medication and should not substitute for the advice of a qualified healthcare professional. Provision of this guide is for informational purposes only and does not constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation, or favoring of this medication by ACCC, HOPA, NCODA, or ONS, who assume no liability for and cannot ensure the accuracy of the information presented. The collaborators are not making any representations with respect to the medications whatsoever, and any and all decisions, with respect to such medications, are at the sole risk of the individual consuming the medication. All decisions related to taking this medication should be made with the guidance and under the direction of a qualified healthcare professional.

Permission: Oral Cancer Treatment Education (OCE) sheets are provided as a free educational resource for patients with cancer in need of concise, easy-to-understand information about oral cancer drugs. Healthcare providers are permitted to copy and distribute the sheets to patients as well as direct patients to the OCE website for information. However, commercial reproduction or reuse, as well as rebranding or reposting of any type, are strictly prohibited without permission of the copyright holder. Please email permission requests and licensing inquiries to Contact@NCODA.org.

Copyright © 2024 by Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association. All rights reserved.