

# Bosutinib

**Care Team Contact Information:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pharmacy Contact Information:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Diagnosis:** \_\_\_\_\_

- This treatment is often used for chronic myeloid leukemia (CML), but it may also be used for other reasons.

**Goal of Treatment:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Treatment may continue for a certain time period, until it no longer works, or until side effects are no longer controlled.

## Treatment Regimen

Treatment Name	How the Treatment Works	How the Treatment is Given
Bosutinib (boe-SUE-ti-nib): Bosulif (boe-SUE-lif)	Slows down or stops the growth of cancer cells by blocking a specific protein that helps them survive.	Capsule(s) or tablet(s) taken by mouth.

## Treatment Administration and Schedule

Your bosutinib dosing instructions:

---



---



---

- Bosutinib comes in 50 mg and 100 mg **capsules**. It also comes in 100 mg, 400 mg, and 500 mg **tablets**. Your care team will tell you how many of each capsule or tablet to take. If needed, they may change your dose.
- Your dose might differ, but bosutinib is typically given as 400 mg (one 400 mg tablet) once a day OR 500 mg (one 500 mg tablet) once a day.
- Bosutinib should be taken with food.
  - Bosutinib tablets should be swallowed whole, not to be cut, crushed, broken, or chewed.
  - Bosutinib capsules may be swallowed whole.
    - If you cannot swallow the tablets or capsules whole, tell your care team for options.
- If you miss a dose of bosutinib:
  - If it has been less than 12 hours, take your dose.
  - If it has been more than 12 hours, just skip the dose and then take your next dose in its entirety at your scheduled time.
  - Do NOT take an extra dose or 2 doses at one time.
  - Write down if you miss a dose and tell your care team.
- If you take too much bosutinib, call your care team or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

## Storage and Handling of Bosutinib

- Store bosutinib tablets and capsules at room temperature between 68°F to 77°F.
- The bosutinib tablets and capsules bottle has a child-resistant closure.
- The bosutinib tablets bottle contains a desiccant to help keep your medicine dry (protect it from moisture). Keep the desiccant in the bottle. Do not eat the desiccant.
- Store the bosutinib capsules in the original bottle.
- Wash your hands with soap and water before and after handling the medicine.
- People who are or may become pregnant should wear gloves when handling the medicine.
- Keep bosutinib and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.
- Ask your care team how to safely throw away any unused bosutinib.

**Appointments:** Appointments may include regular check-ups with your care team, lab visits, and imaging tests. It's important to keep your appointments whenever you can. If you miss any appointments, call your care provider as soon as possible to reschedule your appointment.

## Supportive Care to Prevent and Treat Side Effects

Description	Supportive Care Taken at Home
To help prevent or treat nausea or vomiting	<hr/> <hr/>
To help treat diarrhea	<hr/> <hr/>
Other	<hr/> <hr/>

Common Side Effects

Side Effect	Important Information
Low White Blood Cell (WBC) Count and Increased Risk of Infection	<p>Description: WBCs help protect the body against infections. If you have a low WBC count, you may be at a higher risk of infection.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wash your hands and bathe regularly.</li> <li>Avoid crowded places.</li> <li>Stay away from people who are sick.</li> <li>Your care team may prescribe a drug that promotes the growth of WBC's.</li> </ul> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fever of 100.4 °F (38°C) or higher</li> <li>Chills</li> <li>Cough</li> <li>Sore throat</li> <li>Painful urination</li> <li>Tiredness that is worse than normal</li> <li>Skin infections (red, swollen, or painful areas)</li> </ul>
Low Red Blood Cell Count (RBC) and Hemoglobin (Hgb)	<p>Description: RBCs and Hgb help bring oxygen to your body's tissues and take away carbon dioxide. If you have low RBC counts or Hgb, you may feel weak, tired, or look pale.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Get 7 to 8 hours of sleep each night.</li> <li>Avoid operating heavy machinery when tired.</li> <li>Balance work and rest, staying active but resting when needed.</li> </ul> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shortness of breath</li> <li>Dizziness</li> <li>Fast or abnormal heartbeats</li> <li>Severe headache</li> </ul>
Low Platelet Count	<p>Description: Platelets help the blood clot and heal wounds. If you have low platelet counts, you are at a higher risk of bruising and bleeding.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blow your nose gently and avoid picking it.</li> <li>Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush and maintain good oral hygiene.</li> <li>Use an electric razor for shaving and a nail file instead of nail clippers.</li> <li>Avoid over-the-counter medications that may increase the risk of bleeding, such as NSAIDs.</li> <li>Talk with your care team or dentist before medical or dental procedures, as you may need to pause your treatment.</li> </ul> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nosebleeds lasting over 5 minutes despite pressure</li> <li>Cut that continues to bleed</li> <li>Significant gum bleeding when flossing or brushing</li> <li>Severe headaches</li> <li>Blood in your urine or stool</li> <li>Blood in your spit after a cough</li> </ul>

<p>Fatigue</p>	<p>Description: Fatigue is a constant and sometimes strong feeling of tiredness.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine exercise has been shown to decrease levels of fatigue. Work with your care team to find the right type of exercise for you.</li> <li>• Ask your family and friends for help with daily tasks and emotional support.</li> <li>• Try healthy ways to feel better, like meditation, writing in a journal, doing yoga, and using guided imagery to lower anxiety and feel good.</li> <li>• Make a regular sleep schedule and limit naps during the day so you can sleep better at night, aiming for 7 to 8 hours of sleep.</li> <li>• Don't use heavy machines or do things that need your full attention if you're very tired to avoid accidents.</li> </ul> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tiredness that affects your daily life</li> <li>• Tiredness all the time, and it doesn't get better with rest</li> <li>• Dizziness and weakness, along with being tired</li> </ul>
<p>Diarrhea</p>	<p>Description: Diarrhea is when you have loose, watery bowel movements more often than usual. The need to use the bathroom may occur urgently.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep track of how many times you go to the bathroom each day.</li> <li>• Drink 8 to 10 glasses of water or other fluids every day, unless your doctor tells you otherwise.</li> <li>• Eat small meals of mild, low-fiber foods like bananas, applesauce, potatoes, chicken, rice, and toast.</li> <li>• Avoid eating foods with high fiber (like raw vegetables, fruits, and whole grains), foods that cause gas (like broccoli and beans), dairy foods (like yogurt and milk), and spicy, fried, and greasy foods.</li> <li>• Your care team may recommend medicine (such as loperamide) for diarrhea.</li> </ul> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 or more bowel movements than normal in 24 hours</li> <li>• Dizziness or lightheadedness while having diarrhea</li> <li>• Bloody diarrhea</li> </ul>

<p>Nausea and Vomiting</p>	<p>Description: Nausea is an uncomfortable feeling in your stomach or the need to throw up. This may or may not cause vomiting.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eat smaller, more frequent meals.</li> <li>• Avoid fatty, fried, spicy, or highly sweet foods.</li> <li>• Eat bland foods at room temperature and drink clear liquids.</li> <li>• If you vomit, start with small amounts of water, broth, or other clear liquids when you are ready to eat again. If that stays down, then try soft foods (such as gelatin, plain cornstarch pudding, yogurt, strained soup, or strained cooked cereal). Slowly work up to eating solid food.</li> <li>• Your care team may prescribe medicine for these symptoms.</li> </ul> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vomiting for more than 24 hours</li> <li>• Vomiting that's nonstop</li> <li>• Signs of dehydration (like feeling very thirsty, having a dry mouth, feeling dizzy, or having dark urine)</li> <li>• Blood or coffee-ground-like appearance in your vomit</li> <li>• Bad stomach pain that doesn't go away after vomiting</li> </ul>
<p>Liver Problems</p>	<p>Description: Treatment can harm your liver. This may cause nausea, stomach pain, and bleeding or bruising. It can also turn your skin and eyes yellow and make your urine dark. Lab tests may be performed to monitor liver function.</p> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yellowing of your skin or the whites of your eyes</li> <li>• Severe nausea or vomiting</li> <li>• Pain on the right side of your stomach area (abdomen)</li> <li>• Dark urine (tea colored)</li> <li>• Bleeding or bruising more easily than normal</li> </ul>
<p>Headache</p>	<p>Description: A headache can cause you to feel pain or discomfort in your head, making it hard to concentrate or feel your best.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep a headache diary to track the frequency, duration, intensity, and triggers of your headaches.</li> <li>• Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water, as dehydration can contribute to headaches.</li> <li>• Apply a cold or warm compress to your forehead or neck to help ease headache pain.</li> <li>• Get adequate sleep (7-8 hours per night) and establish a regular sleep schedule.</li> <li>• Limit caffeine intake.</li> <li>• Your care team may recommend medicine for headaches.</li> </ul> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Severe headache</li> <li>• More frequent headaches</li> <li>• Dizziness or light-headedness</li> <li>• Confusion</li> <li>• Vision changes</li> </ul>

<p>Muscle or Joint Pain or Weakness</p>	<p>Description: Muscle pain feels like soreness, aches, cramps, or stiffness in one or more muscles. It may also include tenderness or weakness. Joint pain happens where two bones come together and can feel sharp, dull, throbbing, or burning. It often causes stiffness, swelling, and difficulty moving.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Track your pain levels, areas of discomfort, and any activities that worsen or improve your symptoms.</li> <li>Engage in gentle exercises like walking, stretching, or yoga to maintain mobility and strength, but consult your care team before starting any new exercise routine.</li> <li>Apply a warm compress to relax stiff muscles or use cold packs to reduce swelling and numb pain in affected areas.</li> <li>Your care team may prescribe or recommend medications including over-the-counter pain relievers.</li> </ul> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uncontrolled muscle or joint pain</li> <li>Swelling, redness, or warmth in the joints</li> <li>Weakness</li> <li>Difficulty walking or moving</li> </ul>
<p>Swelling or Fluid Retention</p>	<p>Description: Swelling and fluid retention can occur in different areas of the body, like the legs or hands. You might notice areas feel puffy or tighter than usual</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep a daily log of swelling and note any changes in size or location.</li> <li>Elevate swollen limbs when resting.</li> <li>Limit salt intake.</li> <li>Stay active with regular, gentle exercises.</li> <li>Avoid prolonged periods of sitting or standing without movement.</li> </ul> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swelling that suddenly worsens or spreads to other areas</li> <li>Pain, redness, or warmth in the affected area</li> <li>Signs of shortness of breath or difficulty breathing</li> <li>Swelling is persistent and does not improve with home management</li> <li>Unexpected weight gain</li> </ul> <p>Note: Your care team may ask you to contact them if your weight increases by a certain amount over a certain time period.</p>
<p>Kidney problems</p>	<p>Description: Treatment can cause kidney problems, including damage to the kidneys and decreased kidney function. Your care team will monitor your kidney function during treatment.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drink 8 to 10 glasses of water or other fluids each day, unless your care team tells you otherwise.</li> <li>Your care team may give you fluids and electrolytes with your treatment.</li> </ul> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in your amount of urine</li> <li>Blood in your urine</li> <li>Swelling of your ankles</li> <li>Loss of appetite</li> </ul>

## Select Serious Side Effects

Side Effect	Talk to Your Care Team if You Have Any of These Signs or Symptoms	
Heart Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Palpitations (rapid or irregular heartbeat)</li> <li>Dizziness or lightheadedness</li> <li>Shortness of breath</li> <li>Chest discomfort or pain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fatigue</li> <li>Confusion</li> <li>Fainting or near-fainting spells</li> </ul>

**Before starting treatment, ask your care team when to call 9-1-1 or seek emergency help.**

**If you experience any new, worsening, or uncontrolled side effects, contact your care team immediately.**

## Intimacy, Fertility, Pregnancy, and Breastfeeding

- Treatment may **change how you feel about intimacy and your body**. However, physical closeness—such as holding hands and hugging—remains safe. It is common to have questions about intimacy. If needed, talk to your care team for guidance.
- Treatment may affect your **ability to have children**. It may damage your reproductive organs or stop them from working. If you are worried about fertility, talk to your care team before starting treatment.
- Treatment may **harm an unborn baby**.
  - If you are able to become pregnant, take a pregnancy test before starting treatment.
  - Use an effective method of birth control during treatment and for 2 weeks after your last dose.
  - If you think you might be pregnant or if you become pregnant, tell your care team right away.
  - If your partner(s) could become pregnant, use an effective method of birth control—such as condoms—during treatment and for 2 weeks after your last dose.
- Do NOT breastfeed** during treatment and for 2 weeks after your last dose.

## Additional Information

- Tell your care team about all the medicines you take.**  
This includes prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, and herbal products. Before starting any new medicine, supplement, or vaccine, ask your care team first.
  - If you take an antacid (such as calcium carbonate) or H2 blocker medicine (such as famotidine), take it at least 2 hours before or 2 hours after bosutinib.
  - If you take a Proton Pump Inhibitor (PPI) medicine (such as omeprazole, esomeprazole, or pantoprazole), talk to your doctor or pharmacist.
- You should avoid grapefruit, grapefruit juice, and supplements that contain grapefruit extract** during treatment. Grapefruit products increase the amount of bosutinib in your body.
- This Patient Education Sheet may not describe all possible side effects.**  
Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

## Notes

Updated Date: December 17, 2025

Scan the QR code below to access this education sheet.



Important notice: The Association of Cancer Care Centers (ACCC), Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA), Network for Collaborative Oncology Development & Advancement, 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. All decisions related to taking this medication should be made with the guidance and under the direction of a qualified healthcare professional.

Permission: Patient Education Sheets are provided as a free educational resource for patients with cancer and their caregivers in need of concise, easy to understand information about cancer therapy. Healthcare providers are permitted to copy and distribute the sheets to patients as well as direct patients to the Patient Education Sheets website. However, commercial reproduction or reuse, as well as rebranding or reposting of any type, are strictly prohibited without permission of the copyright holders. Permission requests, including direct linking from Electronic Health Records, and licensing inquiries should be emailed to [patienteducationsheets@ncoda.org](mailto:patienteducationsheets@ncoda.org).

Copyright © 2025 by Network for Collaborative Oncology Development & Advancement, Inc. All rights reserved.

PES-367