

Dabrafenib

Care Team Contact Information: _____

Pharmacy Contact Information: _____

Diagnosis: _____

- This treatment is often used for melanoma, lung cancer, thyroid cancer, and brain cancer. It is also often used for solid tumors that have a certain type of abnormal “BRAF” gene. It may also be used for other diagnoses.
- Your care team will perform a test for a certain type of abnormal “BRAF” gene to make sure that dabrafenib is right for you.

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
Dabrafenib (duh-BRA-feh-nib): Tafinlar (TA-fin-lar)	Slows down or stops the growth of cancer cells by blocking a specific protein that helps them survive.	Capsules taken by mouth. OR Tablets for oral suspension taken by mouth.

Treatment Administration and Schedule

- Dabrafenib is often given with other treatments. Talk to your care team about your exact treatment and schedule.

Your dabrafenib dosing instructions:

- Dabrafenib comes in 2 dosage forms: (1) capsules and (2) tablets for oral suspension.
 - There are 2 capsule strengths: 50 mg and 75 mg.
 - There is 1 tablet strength: 10 mg.
- If you miss a dose of dabrafenib, take or give it as soon as you remember. Do not take or give a missed dose of dabrafenib if it is less than 6 hours before your next scheduled dose. Just skip the missed dose and take or give the next dose of dabrafenib at the regular time.
- If vomiting happens after taking or giving a dose of dabrafenib, do not take or give an additional dose. Take or give the next dose of dabrafenib at the regular time.
- If you take too much dabrafenib, call your care team or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

Dabrafenib Capsules:

- Take dabrafenib 2 times a day, at the same time each day, about 12 hours apart.
- Take dabrafenib on an empty stomach (at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after a meal).
- Take capsules whole. Do not open, crush, or break dabrafenib capsules.
- If dabrafenib capsules are prescribed for your child weighing at least 57 pounds (26 kg), your child's care team will adjust their dose as your child grows.
- Tell your care team if you or your child is not able to swallow dabrafenib capsules whole.

Dabrafenib Tablets for Oral Suspension:

- If dabrafenib tablets for oral suspension are prescribed for your child, your child's care team will adjust their dose as your child grows.
- Dabrafenib tablets for oral suspension are to be taken or given as a suspension only.
- Do not swallow whole, chew or crush dabrafenib tablets for oral suspension.
- See the "Instructions for Use" that comes with the medicine for instructions on how to correctly prepare and take or give a dose of the dabrafenib oral suspension.
- After the tablets for oral suspension are dispersed into an oral suspension, take or give the medicine right away from a dosing cup, oral syringe or feeding tube (10 French gauge or larger for 1 to 3 tablets, 12 French gauge or larger for 4 to 15 tablets).
- Take or give dabrafenib oral suspension 2 times a day, at the same time each day, about 12 hours apart.
- Take or give each dose of dabrafenib oral suspension on an empty stomach (at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after a meal). If necessary, breastfeeding or baby formula may be given on demand.
- Throw away (dispose of) the prepared dabrafenib oral suspension if it is not used within 30 minutes.

Storage and Handling of Dabrafenib

- People who are or may be pregnant should wear gloves when handling dabrafenib.
- Keep dabrafenib and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.
- Ask your care team how to safely throw away any unused dabrafenib.

Dabrafenib Capsules:

- Store dabrafenib capsules at room temperature between 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C).
- Keep dabrafenib capsules in the original bottle.
- The bottle of dabrafenib capsules contains a canister with a drying agent (desiccant) to help keep your medicine dry. Do not throw away the desiccant canister.

Dabrafenib Tablets for Oral Suspension:

- Store the bottle of tablets for oral suspension at room temperature between 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C).
- Store the bottle of tablets for oral suspension, along with the two plastic canisters inside the original packaging, with the cap tightly closed. The canisters contain a drying agent (desiccant) to help keep your medicine dry.
- Tablets for oral suspension come in a bottle with a child-resistant cap.
- Throw away any dabrafenib oral suspension if it is not taken or given within 30 minutes after it is prepared.

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.

Common Side Effects

Side Effect	Important Information
Fever	<p>Description: Fever related to dabrafenib can occur as a side effect due to the drug's effects on the immune system and inflammatory responses. Symptoms often include a raised body temperature, chills, fatigue, and body aches. This fever can typically last for a few days, often resolving within 3 to 7 days after treatment begins.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take your temperature with a thermometer if you feel like you have a fever. Your care team may recommend over-the-counter medications to reduce fever and relieve discomfort. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher Fever lasting for more than 3 days Any signs of infections, such as persistent cough, shortness of breath, or pain
High Blood Sugar	<p>Description: Some people may develop high blood sugar or worsening diabetes during treatment with dabrafenib.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are diabetic, your care team may check your blood sugar levels closely before and during treatment. Your diabetes medicine may need to be changed. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased thirst Urinating more often than normal Urinating an increased amount of urine
Hand-Foot Syndrome	<p>Description: Hand-Foot Syndrome causes dryness, thickening, swelling, or blisters of the skin on the palms of your hands and soles of your feet.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep hands and feet moisturized with a non-scented moisturizing cream. Applying urea 10% or 20% cream twice daily to the affected area may be helpful. Avoid exposure to hot water on the hands and feet in showers or baths that may dry out the skin or by doing dishes. Avoid tight-fitting shoes or socks. Avoid excess rubbing on hands and feet unless putting on lotion. Wear gloves when working with your hands. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Painful blisters or calluses on your hands or feet

Skin Problems	<p>Description: Dabrafenib can cause rash and/or dry skin. It can also cause a thickening of the outer layers of the skin.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a warm (not hot) bath or shower every day with mild, unscented soap or body wash. • Pat skin dry (instead of rubbing) with a towel. • Use unscented lotion or moisturizing cream immediately after showering to prevent cracking. • Use lip balm for dry or chapped lips. • Avoid activities that put you at risk for cuts, injuries or burns. • Use an electric shaver, not a razor, to prevent cuts. • Rinse cuts and scrapes immediately under running water and remove any debris from the wound. Wash the skin around the wound with soap. • Avoid direct sun when possible. Wear a broad-spectrum sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher and reapply every 2 hours. • Use unscented, gentle laundry detergent. Some laundry detergents can irritate sensitive skin. • Your care team may recommend medicine for skin problems. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rash • Very dry skin that may affect the mucous membranes (such as mouth and eyes)
Headache	<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"> • Keep a headache diary to track the frequency, duration, intensity, and triggers of your headaches. • Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water, as dehydration can contribute to headaches. • Your care team may recommend the use of over-the-counter pain relief medications. • Apply a cold or warm compress to your forehead or neck to help ease headache pain. • Get adequate sleep (7-8 hours per night) and establish a regular sleep schedule. • Limit caffeine intake. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A headache that is severe and does not improve with over-the-counter medications • A headache lasts longer than a few days or becomes more frequent • Vision changes, confusion, weakness, or difficulty speaking • A sudden onset of a severe headache, described as a "thunderclap" headache. • Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher

Muscle or Joint Pain	<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"> Track your pain levels, areas of discomfort, and any activities that worsen or improve your symptoms. 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. Apply a warm compress to relax stiff muscles or use cold packs to reduce swelling and numb pain in affected areas. Your care team may prescribe or recommend medications, including over-the-counter pain relievers. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persistent or worsening muscle or joint pain that does not improve with home treatments New symptoms, such as swelling, redness, or warmth in the joints Weakness that affects your ability to perform daily activities
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Select Rare Side Effects

Side Effect	Talk to Your Care Team if You Have Any of These Signs or Symptoms	
Bleeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Headaches, dizziness, or feeling weak Cough up blood or blood clots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vomit blood or your vomit looks like “coffee grounds” Red or black stool that looks like tar
Heart Problems	<p>Your care team may check your heart function before and during treatment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feeling like your heart is pounding, racing, or beating irregularly Shortness of breath Swelling of your ankles or feet Feeling lightheaded 	
Eye Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blurred vision, loss of vision, or other vision changes See color dots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Halo (see blurred outline around objects) Eye pain, swelling, or redness
Risk of New Cancers	<p>Dabrafenib may cause skin cancers, such as cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (cuSCC), keratoacanthoma, basal cell carcinoma, or melanoma. Your care team may check your skin before treatment, during treatment, and after you stop taking dabrafenib to look for any new skin cancers.</p> <p>Check your skin and tell your healthcare provider right away about any skin changes, including a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New wart Skin sore or reddish bump that bleeds or does not heal Change in size or color of a mole 	
Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH)	<p>Dabrafenib, when taken or given with trametinib, may increase the risk of a type of overactivity of the immune system (hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fever Swollen glands Bruising Skin rash 	

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) are able to 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.
- **Dabrafenib may cause healthy red blood cells to break down too early in people with glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) enzyme deficiency.** This may lead to a type of anemia called hemolytic anemia where the body does not have enough healthy red blood cells. Tell your care team if you have any of the following signs or symptoms:
 - Yellow skin (jaundice)
 - Weakness or dizziness
 - Shortness of breath
- **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 24, 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.

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PES-196