Lapatinib (la PA ti nib)
Patient Education

US Brand Names: Tykerb
Therapeutic Category: targeted therapy

What is this medicine used for?

- Used to treat metastatic breast cancer that is HER2 positive.

How does it work?

- Lapatinib interferes with a protein (HER2 receptor) on the surface of cells in your body. This can affect both cancer cells and/or normal cells.

What should my doctor or nurse know before I take this medication?

- If you are allergic to any medicines.
- If you are taking other over-the-counter or prescription medicines, including vitamins and herbal remedies.
- If you are, or may be pregnant.
- If you are breast feeding.
- If you have heart disease.
- If you have liver problems.

How is this drug given?

- This medicine is taken by mouth once daily, on an empty stomach, 1 hour before or 1 hour after a meal. Take at the same time each day. Do not break, crush, or chew tablets.
- Take all of the tablets (daily dose) at one time each day. DO NOT divide your tablets into multiple doses.
- IF used in combination with capecitabine treatment, capecitabine should be taken with food, or within 30 minutes after a meal.

What are the general precautions when taking this medicine?

- Talk with your doctor or nurse before taking aspirin, aspirin-containing products, over the counter or prescription medications *(i.e. antihypertensive medicine), including vitamins and herbal remedies.
- Drink 8 to 10 glasses of non-caffeinated liquid every day (unless told otherwise by your doctor or nurse).
- Avoid eating or drinking grapefruit juice or St John's Wort as long as you are taking Lapatinib.
- If you or your partner can get pregnant, use birth control during your treatment.
- Once completing treatment, discuss the timing for discontinuing birth control measures with your
What are the common side effects of this medicine?
Most common side effects are:

- Diarrhea.
- Acne-like skin rash.
- Nausea and vomiting.
- Sores in the mouth.
- Lowering of blood counts (if combined with chemotherapy).
- Shortness of breath.
- Insomnia.
- Dry skin.
- Hand and foot syndrome; skin rash, redness, numbness, tingling, painful swelling, & blistering.
- May cause changes in your liver function. Your liver function will be monitored while you are taking this medication.
- May cause heart abnormalities. Your heart function will be monitored while you are taking this medication.

Danger signals to report immediately to your doctor or nurse:

- Diarrhea that occurs more than 3 times per day.
- Signs or symptoms of infection. This includes a fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or greater, chills, severe sore throat, ear or sinus pain, cough, increased sputum or change in color, painful urination, mouth sores, wound that will not heal, anal itching or pain, pain in your heels that prevent you from walking.
- Severe nausea or vomiting.
- Not able to eat or drink.
- Bleeding from your nose, mouth, gums, or in your urine or bowel movements. Bruising that does not heal.
- Feeling extremely tired, weak, dizzy or light headed.

How should I store this medicine?

- Keep all medicine out of reach of children & pets.
- Consult your pharmacist for instructions on storage and disposal of this medication.

What do I do if I miss an oral dose?
Contact your doctor or nurse. Do not make up a skipped dose without discussing with your health care team.