

Medical Oncology

Drug Information Sheet

Abemaciclib (Verzenio): a drug to treat your cancer.

What should I avoid while receiving *Abemaciclib (Verzenio)*?

- Do not eat grapefruit or drink grapefruit juice while taking *Abemaciclib (Verzenio)*.

Dose and Schedule:

- You will take this medicine by mouth.
 - *Abemaciclib (Verzenio)* should be taken twice a day, at the same time every day about 12 hours apart.
 - *Abemaciclib (Verzenio)* may be taken with or without food.
 - Take *Abemaciclib (Verzenio)* with food if your stomach becomes upset.
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- Keep taking this drug as you have been told by your doctor or other health care provider, even if you feel well.
 - Swallow the tablets whole with water. Do not crush, open, break, chew or dissolve the medicine in water.
 - If you have any unused *Abemaciclib (Verzenio)*, do not throw it in the trash and do not flush it down the sink or toilet. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about proper disposal of *Abemaciclib (Verzenio)*.
 - *Abemaciclib (Verzenio)* has many drug interactions. Tell your doctor all the prescription medicines, over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products you are taking.
 - Your doctor may change your dose, briefly stop or completely stop treatment with *Abemaciclib (Verzenio)* if you have side effects.
 - **DO NOT START A NEW CYCLE WITHOUT TALKING TO YOUR DOCTOR FIRST.**
- If you miss a dose of *Abemaciclib (Verzenio)*:
- Skip the missed dose and return to normal schedule.
 - If vomiting occurs after taking a dose, take the next dose at the scheduled time.
 - Write down if you miss a dose and let your doctor know about any missed doses.

Storage and Handling:

- You will get this drug from a special pharmacy through the mail. We will help you through the process.
- The drug must be kept in a secure place out of reach of children and pets, so no one else can take this drug. Never share *Abemaciclib (Verzenio)* with anyone else.
- Store *Abemaciclib (Verzenio)* at room temperature in a dry place and away from light. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Keep in original bottle: do NOT place tablets in a pill box.

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- Whenever possible, give *Abemaciclib (Verzenio)* to yourself and follow the steps below. If a family member, friend or caregiver gives *Abemaciclib (Verzenio)* to you, they also need to follow these steps
 - Wash hands with soap and water
 - Put on gloves to avoid touching the medicine (gloves are not needed if you give *Abemaciclib (Verzenio)* to yourself).
 - Do not let women who are pregnant or who may get pregnant touch the tablets without wearing gloves.
 - Carefully remove *Abemaciclib (Verzenio)* from its package to a small disposable cup.
 - Do not lay the medicine on the counter.
 - Take the medicine immediately by mouth with water.
 - Remove gloves and do not use them for anything else.
 - Throw gloves and disposable cup in household trash.
 - Wash hands with soap and water.
 - Do not touch or handle crushed or broken tablets.

You **MAY OR MAY NOT** experience the side effects listed below

Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
Increased risk for infection due to decreased blood counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid contact with people who have infections, colds or flu. • Wash your hands often. • Report chills or a fever of 100.4° or higher to your doctor right away, day or night. • Report any signs or symptoms of infection, such as cough, burning with urination, skin redness or sores. • Call your doctor before taking any medicine for a fever or chills.
Lower than normal red blood cells Anemia	Call you doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ shortness of breath with activity ○ fatigue ○ dizziness ○ fast heartbeat or a heartbeat that does not feel normal ○ headache
Nausea/vomiting Decreased appetite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take nausea medicine as instructed. Let your doctor know if it is not working for you. • Eat smaller, frequent meals. • Try liquid nutrition supplements (Boost, Ensure). • A dietitian is available to talk with you.
Fatigue or weakness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 more energetic. • Avoid driving or doing other tasks that call for you to be alert.

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Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
Diarrhea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happens most often during first month. • Keep well hydrated with water or fluids. • Take over the counter anti-diarrhea medicine (Immodium A-D™ or loperamide HCL). Use the “<i>Helpful Tips for Diarrhea after Chemotherapy or Radiation Therapy</i>” instruction sheet. • Call your doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More than 4 loose stools in 24 hours ○ A fever of 100.4° or higher ○ bad stomach pain or cramps ○ dizziness or feel faint ○ bloody stools (dark, tarry or sticky)
Liver problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lab results will be monitored. • Call your doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ dark urine (tea colored) ○ severe right sided stomach pain ○ light colored stools ○ bruising or if you start to bleed easily ○ yellowing of skin or eyes ○ severe nausea or throwing up ○ unexplained weight gain ○ your belly feels big or bloated
Belly pain	Abdominal pain or discomfort may occur. Report severe pain or symptoms to your doctor.
Kidney problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To help maintain good kidney function stay well hydrated with water and non-caffeine liquids. • Your lab results will be checked. • Call you doctor if you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ have severe swelling (edema), especially around your eyes and in your ankles and feet ○ have foamy urine (protein in your urine) ○ have weight gain of more than 3 pounds in a day
Abemaciclib (Verzenio) will be in urine and stool for several days.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caregivers will need to handle soiled linens and clothing wearing gloves or using a bag as a barrier. • Keep your soiled items separate from others’ dirty laundry and wash right away. • Women who are pregnant should not handle your soiled clothing or linens. • Wash any skin that body waste has touched with soap and water. • You may use the same toilet that you normally use. • If the toilet or toilet seat becomes dirty with urine, stool or vomit, clean the surfaces before other people use the toilet • Wash hands with soap and water after using the toilet. • It is safe to hug and kiss.

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Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
Avoid pregnancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women should not become pregnant and men should not get a partner pregnant while taking <i>Abemaciclib (Verzenio)</i>. • This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if you take it while you are pregnant. If you are pregnant or you get pregnant while taking this drug, call your doctor right away. • Use birth control that you can trust to prevent pregnancy while taking this drug and for 1 month after stopping this drug. • If you or your sex partner gets pregnant while taking this drug or within 1 month after stopping this drug, call your doctor right away. • May cause fertility problems.

Less common side effects that may happen

Less common side effects	What to do:
Lung or breathing problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call your doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a new or worsening cough ○ shortness of breath ○ difficulty breathing ○ low oxygen levels • Your doctor may place you on steroids.
Blood clots (stroke, DVT, pulmonary embolus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink 6-8 glasses of water and non-caffeine beverages a day. • Staying active by walking or doing mild exercise can decrease your risk for blood clots. • Avoid air travel or long car rides for several days after your infusion. • Call the doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ pain, swelling, redness or warmth in an arm or leg ○ unexplained shortness of breath ○ coughing up blood ○ decreased vision in one eye ○ difficulty speaking ○ chest pain or discomfort ○ unexplained rapid heart rate ○ numbness or weakness on one side of the body.
These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor.	