

# Medical Oncology

## Drug Information Sheet

**Abiraterone (Zytiga):** a drug used along with prednisone to treat your cancer.

### Home medicine directions:

You will be prescribed medicines to lower risks of harmful side effects:

- Take prednisone by mouth as directed. Take with food.
- This is part of your treatment plan. Keep taking this drug as your provider has told you. Take it even if you feel well. Do not stop taking this drug without talking to your provider.

### What should I avoid while receiving *Abiraterone (Zytiga)*?

- Do not eat grapefruit or drink grapefruit juice while taking *Abiraterone (Zytiga)*.
- This medicine may decrease the effectiveness of codeine. Talk to your doctor if you are taking codeine.

### Dose and Schedule:

- You will take this medicine by mouth.
- *Abiraterone (Zytiga)* should be taken at the same time every day (morning or evening).
- *Abiraterone (Zytiga)* should be taken by mouth on an empty stomach at least 1 hour before **or** 2 hours after food.
- Do not switch between different brands of this drug.
- Keep taking this drug as you have been told by your doctor or other health care provider. Take it 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 *Abiraterone (Zytiga)*, 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 *Abiraterone (Zytiga)*.
- *Abiraterone (Zytiga)* 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 *Abiraterone (Zytiga)* if you have side effects.
- **DO NOT START A NEW CYCLE WITHOUT TALKING TO YOUR DOCTOR FIRST.**

If you miss a dose of *Abiraterone (Zytiga)*:

- Do not take an extra dose or two doses at one time. Take your next dose at the next scheduled time.
- 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.

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Storage and Handling:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You will get this drug from a special pharmacy through the mail. We will help you through the process.</li> <li>• 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 <i>Abiraterone (Zytiga)</i> with anyone else.</li> <li>• Store <i>Abiraterone (Zytiga)</i> at room temperature in a dry place and away from light. Do not store in a bathroom.</li> <li>• Keep in original bottle: do NOT place tablets in a pill box.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whenever possible, give <i>Abiraterone (Zytiga)</i> to yourself and follow the steps below. If a family member, friend or caregiver gives <i>Abiraterone (Zytiga)</i> to you, they also need to follow these steps               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wash hands with soap and water.</li> <li>○ Put on gloves to avoid touching the medicine (gloves are not needed if you give <i>Abiraterone (Zytiga)</i> to yourself).</li> <li>○ Do not let women who are pregnant or who may get pregnant touch the tablets without wearing gloves.</li> <li>○ Carefully remove <i>Abiraterone (Zytiga)</i> from its package to a small disposable cup.</li> <li>○ Do not lay the medicine on the counter.</li> <li>○ Take the medicine immediately by mouth with water.</li> <li>○ Remove gloves and do not use them for anything else.</li> <li>○ Throw gloves and disposable cup in household trash.</li> <li>○ Wash hands with soap and water.</li> <li>○ Do not touch or handle crushed or broken tablets.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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

Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
<b>Increased risk for infection due to decreased blood counts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid contact with people who have infections, colds or flu.</li> <li>• Wash your hands often.</li> <li>• Report chills or a fever of 100.4° or higher to your doctor right away, day or night.</li> <li>• Report any signs or symptoms of infection, such as cough, burning with urination, skin redness or sores.</li> <li>• Call your doctor before taking any medicine for a fever or chills.</li> </ul>
<b>High Blood Pressure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Let your primary care doctor know that you are taking <i>Abiraterone (Zytiga)</i>.</li> <li>• Your blood pressure will be checked.</li> <li>• Contact your doctor if you have:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ headaches</li> <li>○ shortness of breath</li> <li>○ nosebleeds</li> <li>○ dizziness or passing out</li> <li>○ change in eyesight</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
<p><b>Changes in electrolytes and other lab values</b>            Low sodium levels            High glucose levels            Low potassium levels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your lab values will be checked.</li> <li>• Call you doctor if you have:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ feeling confused</li> <li>○ mood changes</li> <li>○ muscle pain or weakness</li> <li>○ heartbeat that does not feel normal</li> <li>○ seizures</li> <li>○ very bad upset stomach or throwing up</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Call you doctor if you have signs of high glucose:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ are feeling more sleepy than normal</li> <li>○ are more thirsty than normal</li> <li>○ are more hungry than normal</li> <li>○ pass urine more often than usual</li> <li>○ have fast breathing</li> <li>○ have breath that smells like fruit</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Call your doctor if you have signs of low blood sodium:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ headache</li> <li>○ trouble focusing</li> <li>○ problems with your memory</li> <li>○ change in balance</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Call your doctor if you have signs of low potassium:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ weakness</li> <li>○ fatigue</li> <li>○ muscle cramps or twitching</li> <li>○ constipation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Low blood sugar levels</b>            (more common if already taking certain diabetic medicines)</p>	<p>Call your doctor if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ become sweaty</li> <li>○ have feelings of anxiety</li> <li>○ are feeling weak or dizzy</li> <li>○ are feeling hungry</li> <li>○ are feeling irritable</li> <li>○ feel a fast heartbeat or a heartbeat that does not feel normal</li> <li>○ have changes in eyesight</li> <li>○ have a headache or chills</li> <li>○ are feeling confused</li> <li>○ become shaky</li> </ul>
<p><b>Increased triglyceride levels</b>            Type of fat found in your blood</p>	<p>Your blood levels will be checked.</p>
<p><b>Bone, muscle, joint pain</b></p>	<p>Use pain prescription as directed. Tell your doctor if the pain is uncontrolled.</p>

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Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
<b>Liver problems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lab results will be checked.</li> <li>• Call your doctor if you have:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ dark urine (tea colored)</li> <li>○ severe right sided stomach pain</li> <li>○ light colored stools</li> <li>○ bruising or if you start to bleed easily</li> <li>○ yellowing of skin or eyes</li> <li>○ severe nausea or throwing up</li> <li>○ unexplained weight gain</li> <li>○ your belly feels big or bloated</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Fatigue or weakness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may be more tired than usual or have less energy.</li> <li>• Stay as active as possible, but know it is okay to rest as needed.</li> <li>• Try to do some activity every day.</li> <li>• Plan your activities, and do them at a time of day when you feel more energetic.</li> <li>• Avoid driving or doing other tasks that call for you to be alert.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Abiraterone (Zytiga)</i> will be in urine and stool for several days.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caregivers will need to handle soiled linens and clothing wearing gloves or using a bag as a barrier.</li> <li>• Keep your soiled items separate from others' dirty laundry and wash right away.</li> <li>• Women who are pregnant should not handle your soiled clothing or linens.</li> <li>• Wash any skin that body waste has touched with soap and water.</li> <li>• You may use the same toilet that you normally use.</li> <li>• If the toilet or toilet seat becomes dirty with urine, stool or vomit, clean the surfaces before other people use the toilet</li> <li>• Wash hands with soap and water after using the toilet.</li> <li>• <b>It is safe to hug and kiss.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Avoid pregnancy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women should not become pregnant and men should not get a partner pregnant while taking <i>Abiraterone (Zytiga)</i>.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Use birth control that you can trust to prevent pregnancy while taking this drug and for <b>1 month</b> after stopping this drug.</li> <li>• If you or your sex partner gets pregnant while taking this drug or within <b>1 month</b> after stopping this drug, call your doctor right away.</li> <li>• May cause fertility problems.</li> </ul>

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### Less common side effects that may happen

Less common side effects	What to do:
<b>Adrenal insufficiency</b>	Call your doctor right away if you experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A very bad upset stomach or throwing up</li><li>• Very bad dizziness or passing out</li><li>• Muscle weakness</li><li>• Feeling very tired</li><li>• Mood changes</li><li>• Loss of appetite</li><li>• Weight loss</li></ul>
<b>These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor.</b>	