

# Medical Oncology

## Drug Information Sheet

***Imatinib (Gleevec)***: a drug to treat your cancer.

### What should I avoid while receiving *Imatinib (Gleevec)*?

- Avoid use of acetaminophen (Tylenol).
- Do not use Ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil). Other nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medicines are okay to use. Talk to your doctor if you are taking ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil).
- Avoid eating grapefruit or drinking grapefruit juice.
- *Imatinib (Gleevec)* increases the effects of pain medicine. Talk to your doctor if you are taking prescription pain medicine. Your dose may need to be adjusted.
- Do not eat grapefruit or drink grapefruit juice while taking *Imatinib (Gleevec)*.
- *Imatinib (Gleevec)* may increase the effects of *cannabis, tetrahydrocannabinol or Cannabidiol*. Use with caution.
- Avoid using this medicine with steroids. Using steroids may decrease how well *Imatinib (gleevec)* works. Talk to your doctor if you are taking prescription steroids.
- Do NOT use Echinacea.
- This medicine may increase levels of Red Yeast Rice. Talk to your doctor if you are taking Red Yeast Rice.

### Dose and Schedule:

- You will take this medicine by mouth.
- *Imatinib (Gleevec)* should be taken at the same time every day with food (helps prevent upset stomach). Take as directed.
- 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, or chew medicine.
- If you are having trouble swallowing *Imatinib (Gleevec)*, it may be dissolved in water or apple juice (using ¼ cup for 100 mg tablet, 1 cup for 400 mg tablet). Stir until dissolved and take right away.
- If you have any unused *Imatinib (Gleevec)*, 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 *Imatinib (Gleevec)*.
- *Imatinib (Gleevec)* 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 *Imatinib (Gleevec)*, if you have side effects.
- **DO NOT START A NEW CYCLE WITHOUT TALKING TO YOUR DOCTOR FIRST.**

### If you miss a dose of *Imatinib (Gleevec)*:

- Skip the missed dose and return to normal schedule.
- If vomiting occurs after taking a dose, take the next dose at the scheduled time.
- Do not take an extra dose or two doses at one time.
- Write down if you miss a dose and let your doctor know about any missed doses.

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<b>Storage and Handling:</b>	
<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>Imatinib (Gleevec)</i> with anyone else.</li> <li>• Store <i>Imatinib (Gleevec)</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>Imatinib (Gleevec)</i> to yourself and follow the steps below. If a family member, friend or caregiver gives <i>Imatinib (Gleevec)</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>Imatinib (Gleevec)</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>Imatinib (Gleevec)</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

<b>Possible Side Effects:</b>	<b>What to do:</b>
<p><b>Increased risk for infection due to decreased blood counts</b></p>	<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>
<p><b>Lower than normal red blood cells</b> Anemia</p>	<p>Call you doctor if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ shortness of breath with activity</li> <li>○ fatigue</li> <li>○ dizziness</li> <li>○ fast heartbeat or a heartbeat that does not feel normal</li> <li>○ headache</li> </ul>

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Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
<b>Increased risk for bleeding due to decreased blood counts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report signs of bleeding or bruising.</li> <li>• Avoid taking aspirin or aspirin products unless your doctor tells you to take it.</li> <li>• Use soft toothbrush.</li> <li>• Use electric razor.</li> <li>• Talk to your doctor before any scheduled medical or dental procedures.</li> <li>• Call your doctor if you have:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Severe headache.</li> <li>○ Blood in stools or urine.</li> <li>○ Bleeding for a long period.</li> <li>○ Uncontrolled bleeding</li> <li>○ Bruising</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Fluid retention or swelling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fluid may build up in the lining of your lungs, the sac around your heart, or your stomach.</li> <li>• Do not stand for long periods of time.</li> <li>• Keep your legs elevated when sitting or lying down.</li> <li>• Avoid eating salty foods, which can increase swelling.</li> <li>• Avoid wearing tight-fitting clothes and shoes.</li> <li>• Weigh yourself daily.</li> <li>• Call your doctor right away if you:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Notice swelling in your body, especially in your hands, legs or feet.</li> <li>○ Shortness of breath or trouble breathing</li> <li>○ Have a dry cough</li> <li>○ Have chest pain when taking a deep breath.</li> <li>○ Gain 5 pounds or more in one week.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Skin rash or itching</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use moisturizing lotions to keep skin hydrated after bathing.</li> <li>• Use tepid water, rather than hot water.</li> <li>• Wear loose-fitting cotton clothing.</li> <li>• Use over-the-counter anti-inflammation and anti-itch creams (hydrocortisone cream or diphenhydramine).</li> <li>• Apply cool, wet cloth to soothe skin.</li> <li>• Avoid using perfumes and cologne.</li> <li>• Avoid rubbing and scratching.</li> <li>• Drink water and non-caffeine beverages.</li> <li>• Notify your doctor of rash, itching or swelling. This may occur on the face and can be around your eyes.</li> </ul>
<b>Nausea or vomiting Decreased appetite</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take nausea medicine as instructed. Let your doctor know if it is not working for you.</li> <li>• Eat smaller, frequent meals.</li> <li>• Try liquid nutrition supplements (Boost, Ensure).</li> <li>• A dietitian is available to talk with you.</li> </ul>

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<b>Possible Side Effects:</b>	<b>What to do:</b>
<b>Severe skin reactions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use a moisturizing cream free from alcohol, perfume or dye at least twice a day.</li> <li>• When outside, use sunscreen and wear clothing and eyewear that protects you from the sun.</li> <li>• Choose mild soaps.</li> <li>• Use tepid water, rather than hot water.</li> <li>• Wear loose-fitting cotton clothing.</li> <li>• Apply cool, wet cloth to soothe skin.</li> <li>• Avoid using perfumes and cologne.</li> <li>• Avoid rubbing and scratching.</li> <li>• Call your doctor if you have:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin</li> <li>○ a skin rash that bothers you or does not go away</li> <li>○ acne</li> <li>○ redness, swelling, peeling, or tenderness of hands or feet</li> <li>○ any skin redness, itching, rash or blisters that ooze or peel</li> <li>○ areas of skin color loss</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Your doctor may prescribe anti-inflammation creams or antibiotics by mouth.</li> <li>• Your doctor may prescribe steroids.</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>

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Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
<b>Belly pain and gas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following can cause more gas:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Common gas-causing foods include beans, peas, lentils, cabbage, onions, broccoli, cauliflower, whole-grain foods, mushrooms, certain fruits, and beer and other carbonated drinks. Try removing one food at a time to see if your gas improves.</li> <li>○ Dairy. Reducing dairy products from your diet can lessen symptoms. You also may try dairy products that are lactose-free or take milk products supplemented with lactase to help with digestion.</li> <li>○ Sugar substitutes.</li> <li>○ Fried or fatty foods.</li> <li>○ Carbonated beverages</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Regular exercise may help decrease gas.</li> <li>• Call your doctor if you have:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ severe belly pain</li> <li>○ bloody stools (dark, tarry or sticky)</li> <li>○ nausea</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Diarrhea</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep well hydrated with water or fluids.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Call your doctor if you have:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ More than 4 loose stools in 24 hours</li> <li>○ A fever of 100.4° or higher</li> <li>○ bad stomach pain or cramps</li> <li>○ dizziness or feel faint</li> <li>○ bloody stools (dark, tarry or sticky)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Headache</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use pain medicine as prescribed. Call your doctor if the pain is not under control. Do not take Aspirin.</li> <li>• Call your doctor if your headache:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Follows a head injury</li> <li>○ Lasts more than 48 hours</li> <li>○ Is severe or starts suddenly</li> <li>○ Is associated with vomiting, visual disturbance, neck stiffness, drowsiness, confusion, rash, weakness in arm or leg, or numbness; or is made worse by coughing or lowering the head.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Bone, muscle, joint pain</b>	Use pain prescription as directed. Notify your doctor if the pain is uncontrolled.

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Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
<b>Fever or shivering</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink caffeine free fluids to stay well hydrated.</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>May cause dizziness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have someone drive you home.</li> <li>• Change positions slowly.</li> <li>• Avoid driving or doing other tasks that call for you to be alert.</li> </ul>
<b>Coumadin (Warfarin) dosing</b>	If you are taking Coumadin (warfarin), talk with your doctor. You may need to have your blood work checked more closely while you are taking it with this medicine.
<b><i>Imatinib (Gleevec)</i> will be in urine and stool for 48 hours.</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>Imatinib (Gleevec)</i>.</li> <li>• This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if you take it while you are pregnant.</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:
<p><b>Tumor Lysis Syndrome</b> Caused by rapid tumor cell death</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink plenty of caffeine free fluids to stay well hydrated.</li> <li>• Call your doctor right away if you:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ have a fast heartbeat or a heartbeat that does not feel normal</li> <li>○ pass out</li> <li>○ have trouble passing urine</li> <li>○ have muscle weakness or cramps</li> <li>○ have an upset stomach</li> <li>○ are throwing up</li> <li>○ have loose stools</li> <li>○ fever</li> <li>○ chills</li> <li>○ confusion</li> <li>○ shortness of breath</li> <li>○ seizure</li> <li>○ dark or cloudy urine</li> <li>○ unusual tiredness</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) or Cardiomyopathy</b></p>	<p>A rare side effect could cause weakening of the heart muscle. Call the doctor or nurse right away if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ any shortness of breath</li> <li>○ increased or unexplained cough</li> <li>○ swelling in feet or legs</li> <li>○ sudden weight gain of more than 3 pounds in a day</li> <li>○ chest discomfort</li> </ul>
<p><b>Liver problems</b></p>	<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>

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<b>Less common side effects</b>	<b>What to do:</b>
<b>Changes in kidney function</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kidney function can be affected.</li><li>• Electrolytes and kidney function will be checked.</li><li>• Dose may be held or adjusted if kidney function is decreased.</li><li>• Talk to you doctor before taking NSAIDs (Ibuprofen, Motrin, Aleve).</li><li>• To help maintain good kidney function stay well hydrated with water and non-caffeine liquids.</li><li>• Notify your doctor if you have:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ changes in mood or confusion</li><li>○ smaller amount of urine than normal</li><li>○ blood in urine</li><li>○ swelling in ankles</li><li>○ trouble emptying your bladder</li><li>○ weight gain</li><li>○ painful urination</li></ul></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>	