

Capecitabine + Lapatinib

Your chemotherapy treatment is called capecitabine + lapatinib. It is commonly used to treat breast cancer and has also been used to treat other diseases. Capecitabine + lapatinib is made up of two drugs:

- capecitabine (kape-SITE-a-been) or Xeloda (zeh-LOE-duh)
- lapatinib (la-PA-ti-nib) or Tykerb (TIE-curb)

Capecitabine prevents cancer cells from dividing and growing, and can eventually cause the cancer cells to shrink and die. Lapatinib is a new type of drug called a tyrosine kinase inhibitor, which targets cancer cells more precisely than chemotherapy drugs.

What Do I Need to Know Before Starting Treatment?

Be sure to tell your healthcare provider about any prescription or over-the-counter products you are taking, including dietary supplements, vitamins, herbal medicines and homeopathic remedies.

Use an effective birth control method while you are being treated. These agents can cause harm to a fetus, so be sure to tell your healthcare provider right away if you or your partner become pregnant.

Avoid breastfeeding during treatment. It is not known if these treatments pass into breast milk.

Some chemotherapy drugs can cause sterility. Talk with your healthcare provider about your options if you want to have children in the future.

Do not get any immunizations or vaccinations while you are being treated without the approval of your healthcare provider.

What Do I Need to Know Before Starting Capecitabine + Lapatinib?

Capecitabine can increase the effects of blood thinners such as warfarin (Coumadin®). It is extremely important that you tell your healthcare provider if you are taking warfarin or another blood thinner so that how quickly your blood clots can be monitored. The dose of your blood thinner may have to be decreased while you are taking capecitabine.

Capecitabine and lapatinib can cause severe diarrhea. See “What Are the Possible Side Effects” for how to manage diarrhea. If your diarrhea is severe contact your healthcare provider.

Capecitabine and lapatinib can cause heart problems such as irregular heartbeat, angina, electrocardiographic (EKG) changes, heart attack and heart failure. These side effects may be more common in patients with a history of heart disease. Tell your healthcare provider if you have shortness of breath, heart palpitations, or fatigue.

Lapatinib can cause lung problems, called interstitial lung disease or pneumonitis. Your healthcare provider will check how well your lungs are working while you are taking lapatinib and decide if you need to stop treatment.

Tell healthcare provider if you have a history of liver disease. Your dose of lapatinib may need to be changed.

Your treatment can interact with other substances, including:

- Warfarin (Coumadin®)
- Folic acid
- Phenytoin (Dilantin®), Carbamazepine (Tegretol®) or Phenobarbital (Luminal®, Solfoton®)
- Fluconazole (Diflucan®), Itraconazole (Sporanox®), Ketoconazole (Nizoral®), Voriconazole (Vfend®) or Posaconazole (Noxafil®)
- Rifabutin (Mycobutin®) or Rifampin (Rifadin®),
- Clarithromycin (Biaxin®), Erythromycin or troleandomycin
- Nefazodone (Serzone®) or fluvoxamine
- Grapefruit or grapefruit juice

- St. John's wort, ginkgo biloba, kava, grape seed, valerian, ginseng, echinacea or evening primrose oil
- Verapamil (Verelan®, Calan®, Isoptin®, Covera-HS®) or diltiazem (Cardizem®)
- Cimetidine (Tagamet®), aprepitant (Emend®) or amiodarone
- Mylanta®, Tums® and Maalox® should not be taken within one hour before or after lapatinib
- Dexamethasone, prednisone or hydrocortisone
- Amprenavir (Agenerase®), Atazanavir (Reyataz®), Indinavir (Crixivan®), Nelfinavir (Viracept®), Ritonavir (Norvir®), Saquinavir (Invirase®) or Delavirdine (Rescriptor®)

Please note this list is a summary and does not contain all possible drug interactions. Contact your healthcare provider if you are taking any medications that can interact with your treatment.

You should not take this treatment if you:

- Are allergic to capecitabine, lapatinib or any components of these drugs.
- Are allergic to 5-fluorouracil (5FU) because capecitabine is converted to 5FU in the body.
- Have a condition known as dihydropyridimine dehydrogenase (DPD) deficiency.

How Is the Treatment Given?

Lapatinib is taken once a day. It is important that you do not divide the dose. You should take lapatinib at least one hour before or one hour after a meal. If you miss a dose of lapatinib, but remember the same day, take it as soon as you remember. If you miss a day, do not double your dose the next day. Just skip the missed dose.

Capecitabine is usually taken twice a day, in the morning and evening, for 14 days, followed by a 7-day rest period. Follow your healthcare provider's directions if you are given a different dosing schedule. Capecitabine should be swallowed with water and taken within 30 minutes after a meal. If you miss a dose, do not take the missed dose or double the next dose. Instead, continue your regular dosing schedule and check with your healthcare provider.

Do not take two doses of either drug at the same time. It is important to take capecitabine + lapatinib exactly as prescribed. Do not stop the medicine or change the dose without talking with your healthcare provider.

Store capecitabine and lapatinib at room temperature away from children and pets. If you take too much of either drug, call your healthcare provider, local poison control center or emergency room right away.

Do not share these medications with others. Sharing this medication with anyone else could be harmful.

When Should I Call My Healthcare Provider?

Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms:

- Shaking chills or fever 100.5 degrees F or higher
- Unusual bleeding, easy bruising or pinpoint red spots on your skin
- Vomiting that is severe or lasts several hours
- Painful or frequent urination or blood in your urine
- Diarrhea that causes an additional four bowel movements a day, diarrhea that lasts more than one day, diarrhea at night or diarrhea with fever, cramps or bloody stools
- Irregular or rapid heart beat, chest pain, chest tightness or shortness of breath
- Dizziness or feeling lightheaded
- Inability to eat or weight loss

What Are the Possible Side Effects?

All drugs can cause side effects, but every person reacts differently to each drug. The following chart lists the possible side effects that can occur with your treatment, how to recognize and minimize symptoms and possible treatments. The side effects are grouped by how often the side effect occurs: Common (occurs in more than 25 percent of patients), Less Common (occurs in 5 to 25 percent of patients) or Rare (occurs in less than 5 percent of patients).

Side Effect	How to Minimize Side Effect	Possible Treatments
Capecitabine + Lapatinib		

Side Effect	How to Minimize Side Effect	Possible Treatments
<p>Nausea/Vomiting (Common. Symptoms are generally mild.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feeling queasy or sick to your stomach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eat small, frequent meals and bland foods—such as bananas, rice, applesauce and toast. Eat food cold or at room temperature so the smell of food will not bother you. Avoid fried, spicy or fatty foods. Eat and drink slowly. Drink plenty of liquids during the day, but to avoid bloating, drink small amounts of liquid during meals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You will be given medicine to help reduce nausea and vomiting.
<p>Diarrhea (Common. Symptoms are generally mild to moderate but can be severe.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loose or watery stools several times a day Abdominal cramping, gas and bloating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eat small, frequent meals and bland foods—such as bananas, rice, applesauce and toast. Avoid caffeine; alcohol; raw fruits and vegetables; raw eggs; undercooked meats; spicy, fatty and greasy foods; milk and dairy products; foods that cause gas, such as beans and other legumes; high fiber and high-fat foods; foods left unrefrigerated for more than two hours (one hour for egg dishes and cream or mayonnaise-based foods); bulk laxatives; and stool softeners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drink eight to ten glasses of clear liquids every day. Your healthcare provider may prescribe medicine to help treat diarrhea.
<p>Rash (Common. Symptoms are generally mild.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usually mild and short-lived Generally appears on the arms and trunk (occasionally on the face) May be itchy May appear as a flat, discolored area on the skin or as a small raised bump 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid prolonged exposure to heat. Use creams or moisturizers regularly. Try wearing cotton gloves on your hands. Avoid using perfume, cologne or aftershave since these products can be irritating to the skin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your healthcare provider may prescribe creams (mild steroids, antihistamines or antibiotics) to help treat the rash. The rash may improve on its own without any treatment.
<p>Hand-Foot Syndrome (Common. Symptoms are generally mild to moderate.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swelling or redness in the hands and feet that can prevent normal activity Cracked or peeling skin Tingling, numbness or pain in the hands or soles of the feet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear gloves to wash dishes. Avoid using harsh household cleaners. Avoid prolonged exposure to heat or pressure. Use creams or moisturizers regularly. Try covering your hands with cotton gloves. Avoid perfume, cologne or aftershave since these products can be irritating to the skin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your healthcare provider may prescribe a cream to help with skin reactions. Your healthcare provider may decrease your chemotherapy dose or delay further chemotherapy.
<p>Anorexia or Appetite Loss (Less Common. Appetite loss is generally minimal.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not having an appetite Feeling too nauseated to eat Metallic or medicinal taste Change in taste causing dislike for certain foods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Try eating six to eight small meals or snacks each day instead of three larger meals. Vary your diet and try new foods and recipes. Take a walk before meals, when possible. This may make you feel hungrier. Eat with friends or family. When eating alone, listen to the radio or watch TV. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cook dinners ahead of time and freeze them in small portions so that cooking smells are minimized. Let others help with food, but ask that foods be prepared in small portions that can be frozen. And don't hesitate to let them know which foods to avoid. Add mild spices to change flavor. It might be helpful to have a program, such as Meals on Wheels, deliver food to you.

Side Effect	How to Minimize Side Effect	Possible Treatments
Mouth Sores and Pain (Less Common. Symptoms are generally mild.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pain, swelling and redness of the mouth, tongue and throat “Coated tongue” Difficulty talking, swallowing or eating Bleeding ulcers and infection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brush teeth two to four times a day using a soft bristle brush and fluoride toothpaste. Use non-waxed dental floss daily. Ask your healthcare provider to recommend a mouthwash that does not contain alcohol. Sip water during the day and use sugar-free candy or chewing gum to keep your mouth wet. Eat food cold or at room temperature. Eat soft or pureed food. Avoid food that is acidic, spicy, salty, dry or rough, such as toast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may be given medicine to help treat pain. You may be given medicine to treat fungal or viral infections.
Constipation (Less Common. Symptoms are generally mild.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficulty in passing stools Decrease in the normal frequency of bowel movements Small, hard dry stools Bloating, gas, cramps and pain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drink plenty of fluids to help loosen your bowels. Drink warm or hot liquids if you do not have mouth sores. Your healthcare provider may suggest eating foods that are high in fiber, such as bran, vegetables, whole wheat breads and fruit. Add prunes or prune juice, which act like laxatives. Exercise can help loosen bowels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your healthcare provider may recommend a stool softener.
Risk of Infection (Less Common) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fever and chills Painful urination Sore throat and cough Nasal congestion Swelling or redness of the skin at the site of a wound 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash your hands often. Brush and floss your teeth daily. Clean cuts right away with warm water, soap and antiseptic. When your white blood cell count is low, stay away from crowds and people with colds or other illnesses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may be given medicine to increase your white blood cell count. You may be given an antibiotic to treat or prevent infection. Your healthcare provider may decrease your chemotherapy dose or delay further chemotherapy.
Anemia (Rare) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fatigue or weakness Dizziness Pale skin Feeling out of breath Feeling cold 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan rest periods throughout the day. Organize daily activities so that you conserve your energy. Try to eat a well balanced diet and drink plenty of fluids. Stand up slowly to avoid getting dizzy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may be given medicine to increase your red blood cell count. Your healthcare provider may decrease your chemotherapy dose or delay further chemotherapy.
Bleeding (Rare) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unusual bleeding, easy bruising Black or tar-like stools Blood in your urine Pinpoint red spots on your skin Bleeding gums or nosebleeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid aspirin and aspirin-like drugs, such as ibuprofen. Use caution with sharp objects, such as razors and nail cutters. Avoid activities that can cause cuts, bumps and bruises. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may be given medicine to increase your platelet count. Your healthcare provider may decrease your chemotherapy dose or delay further chemotherapy.

What Are the Other Possible Side Effects?

The chart below lists additional side effects found with the individual drugs in this treatment. It does not list all possible side effects. For more information, talk with your healthcare provider.

Common Side Effects	Less Common Side Effects	Rare Side Effects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Headache Pain in arms, legs or back Abdominal pain Insomnia Shortness of breath Indigestion Fatigue or weakness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dizziness

Notes

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