



Abiraterone (Zytiga®)

Information for Patients and Families

Abiraterone (Zytiga®) is an oral medicine that your doctor prescribed for the treatment of advanced prostate cancer. Please take your **abiraterone** as directed by your prescriber.

How is this medication taken?

- Take your **abiraterone** at approximately the same time each day.
- Take **abiraterone** on an empty stomach—1 hour before or 2 hours after eating. Tablets should be taken with a full glass of water and swallowed whole.
- Contact your cancer clinic if you are unable to take **abiraterone** as prescribed, including if you are unable to swallow the tablet.

Are there any drugs or foods I should avoid with abiraterone therapy?

- Do not eat grapefruit or drink grapefruit juice while on this medicine.
- There are multiple drug and herbal interactions with abiraterone. Please contact your cancer clinic or the UMCCC oral medications for cancer treatment service if you are taking or interested in taking any new over-the-counter medication, vitamin, or herbal product or if a physician other than your oncologist has prescribed any new medication for you. We will review for the risk of interaction with abiraterone. Some examples of medications/herbal products that may interact include: antibiotics, antidepressants, antipsychotics, dextromethorphan (cough suppressant), antifungals like voriconazole (Vfend), antiseizure medicines like phenytoin (Dilantin) and carbamazepine (Tegretol), blood thinning medicines like warfarin (Coumadin) and herbal products like St. John's Wort.

What side effects can occur with abiraterone therapy?

This information does not cover all possible side effects. Refer to the attached information for each chemotherapy agent for further information.

Common Side Effects	What Can I Do?	When to Call your Cancer Clinic
Swelling/rapid weight gain (edema)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elevate legs when resting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any trouble breathing or chest tightness If you have abnormal swelling in your face, hands, ankles, feet or around the eyes If you have had a rapid increase in weight (i.e. 5 pounds or more in one week)
Joint Pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use pain medication recommended by the clinic Ibuprofen 400mg by mouth every 4-6 hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unable to perform normal daily activities
Urinary Tract Infection		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temperature of 100.5 ° F or higher- CONTACT IMMEDIATELY Chills Frequency, urgency, or pain with urination You notice blood in the urine (orange or pink/red tinged urine)
Low blood potassium levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The clinic will monitor your labs to assess 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe muscle weakness Rapid heartbeat
Less Common Side Effects	What Can I Do?	When to Call your Cancer Clinic

<p>High Blood Pressure Onset within ~ 3 weeks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depending on your specific treatment plan, you may be instructed by your clinic to monitor your blood pressure daily at home, especially during the first 6 weeks of therapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blood pressure over 150/90 or less than 100/60 or as instructed by your clinic provider
<p>Less Common Side Effects</p>	<p>What Can I Do?</p>	<p>When to Call your Cancer Clinic</p>
<p>Liver Dysfunction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The clinic will monitor your labs to assess 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yellowing of eyes or skin

More information:

This document should be combined with “What to Expect, A Guide to Oral Chemotherapy Treatment at the University of Michigan” and the “Oral Medications for Cancer Therapy” documents. Ask your nurse or pharmacist for these documents if you did not receive them, or for more information, visit the Patient Education Resource Center in the Cancer Center.

Who to Call With Questions

- **For medical emergencies call 911.**
- For symptoms or possible side effects related to your medications, please call your Cancer Center clinic.
- For questions about drug coverage, ability to receive the medication, drug interactions with over-the-counter medications, herbal products and new prescription medications or help in remembering to take your medication, please contact the Oral Medications for Cancer Therapy Service at 734-232-6366 or cc-oral-chemo@med.umich.edu.

This document is not intended to take the place of the care and attention of your personal physician or other professional medical services. Our aim is to promote active participation in your care and treatment by providing information and education. Questions about individual health concerns or specific treatment options should be discussed with your physician.

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