

Ceritinib (Zykadia)

About This Medicine

CERITINIB (se RI ti nib) treats lung cancer. It works by blocking a protein that causes cancer cells to grow and multiply. This helps to slow or stop the spread of cancer cells. It is given orally (by mouth).

This medicine may be used for other purposes; ask your care team if you have questions.

Possible Side Effects

- Nausea and vomiting (throwing up)
- Diarrhea (loose bowel movements)
- Pain in your abdomen
- Decreased appetite (decreased hunger)
- Weight loss
- Tiredness

Note: Each of the side effects above was reported in 25% or greater of people treated with ceritinib. All possible side effects are not included. Your side effects may be different depending on your cancer diagnosis, condition, or if you are receiving other medicines in combination. Please discuss any concerns or questions with your care team.

Warnings and Precautions

- Severe and persistent diarrhea, pain in your abdomen, nausea and vomiting can occur.
- Changes in your liver function
- Inflammation (swelling) and/or scarring of the lungs which can be life-threatening. You may have a cough and/or trouble breathing.
- Abnormal heartbeat, abnormal electrocardiogram (EKG/ECG), and/or decrease in heart rate may occur which may be life-threatening.
- Blood sugar levels may change
- Inflammation of your pancreas which can be life-threatening.

Note: Some of the side effects above are very rare. If you have concerns and/or questions, please discuss them with your care team.

How to Take Your Medicine

- Take this medicine by mouth with food.
- **Missed dose:** If you miss a dose, and it is less than 12 hours until your next dose, then skip the missed dose and go back to your normal schedule. If you miss a dose, and it is more than 12 hours until your next dose, take the missed dose. Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses. Do not replace a vomited dose.
- **Overdosage:** If you think you have taken too much of this medicine, contact a poison control center or emergency room at once
- **Handling:** Wash your hands with soap and water, before and after handling your medicine. Your caretakers should not handle your medicine with bare hands and should wear latex gloves.
- This medicine may be present in the urine, stool and other body fluids such as blood, vomit, semen, and vaginal fluids. Take precautions to prevent others from coming in contact with your medicine or your body fluids. Follow safety precautions during your treatment and for as long as directed by your care team after your treatment. If you take a pill each day, follow these precautions every day.
- **Storage:** Store this medicine in the original container at room temperature. Keep out of the reach of children and pets.
- **Disposal of unused medicine:** Do not flush any expired and/or unused medicine down the toilet or drain unless you are specifically instructed to do so on the medicine label. Some facilities have take-back programs and/or other options. If you do not have a take-back program in your area, then please discuss with your care team how to dispose of unused medicine.

Important Information

- Sensitivity to sunlight/light. You may get a skin rash/reaction if you are in the sun or are exposed to sun lamps and tanning beds.

Treating Side Effects

- Manage tiredness by pacing your activities for the day.
- Be sure to include periods of rest between energy-draining activities.
- Drink enough fluids to keep your urine pale yellow.
- If you throw up or have diarrhea, you should drink more fluids so that you do not become dehydrated (lack of water in the body from losing too much fluid).
- If you have diarrhea, eat low-fiber foods that are high in protein and calories and avoid foods that can irritate your digestive tracts or lead to cramping.
- To help with nausea and vomiting, eat small, frequent meals instead of three large meals a day. Choose foods and drinks that are at room temperature. Ask your care team about other helpful tips and medicine that is available to help stop or lessen these symptoms.
- Ask your care team about medicine that can lessen or stop your diarrhea.



- To help with decreased appetite, eat small, frequent meals. Eat foods high in calories and protein, such as meat, poultry, fish, dry beans, tofu, eggs, nuts, milk, yogurt, cheese, ice cream, pudding, and nutritional supplements.
- Consider using sauces and spices to increase taste. Daily exercise, with your care team's approval, may increase your appetite.
- To help with weight loss, drink fluids that contribute calories (whole milk, juice, soft drinks, sweetened beverages, milkshakes, and nutritional supplements) instead of water.
- Keeping your pain under control is important to your well-being. Please tell your care team if you are experiencing pain.
- If you have diabetes, keep good control of your blood sugar level. Tell your care team if your glucose levels are higher or lower than normal.
- Use sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher when you are outdoors even for a short time. Cover up when you are out in the sun. Wear wide-brimmed hats, long-sleeved shirts, and pants. Keep your neck, chest, and back covered.
- If you get a rash do not put anything on it unless your care team says you may. Keep the area around the rash clean and dry. Ask your care team for medicine if your rash bothers you.

Food and Medicine Interactions

- Avoid grapefruit or grapefruit juice while taking this medicine as it may raise the levels of ceritinib in your body which could make side effects worse.
- Check with your care team about all other prescription medicines and over-the-counter medicines and dietary supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbs, and others) you are taking before starting this medicine as there are known medicine interactions with ceritinib. Also, check with your care team before starting any new prescription, have any changes in heart or blood pressure medicines, or over-the-counter medicines, or dietary supplements to make sure that there are no interactions.
- This medicine may interact with St. John's Wort and may lower the levels of the medicine in your body, which can make it less effective.

When to Call Your Care Team

Call your care team if you have any of these symptoms and/or any new or unusual symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher
- Chills
- Tiredness that interferes with your daily activities
- Feeling that your heart is beating in a fast or not normal way (palpitations)
- Pain in your chest or abdomen that does not go away
- Dry cough
- Wheezing and/or trouble breathing
- Feeling dizzy or lightheaded
- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking and/or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Throwing up more than 3 times a day
- Diarrhea, 4 times in one day or diarrhea with lack of strength or a feeling of being dizzy

- Severe pain in the abdomen that may spread to your back
- Lasting loss of appetite or rapid weight loss of five pounds in a week
- Abnormal blood sugar
- Unusual thirst, passing urine often, headache, sweating, shakiness, irritability
- Signs of possible liver problems: dark urine, pale bowel movements, pain in your abdomen, feeling very tired and weak, unusual itching, or yellowing of the eyes or skin
- A new rash or a rash that is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Develop sensitivity to sunlight/light

Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** This medicine can cause serious birth defects. If you can become pregnant, use birth control while taking this medicine and for 6 months after the last dose. If you can get your partner pregnant, use birth control (condom) while taking this medicine and for 3 months after the last dose. Tell your care team right away if you think you might be pregnant or think your partner might be pregnant.
- **Breastfeeding warning:** Do not breastfeed while taking this medicine and for 2 weeks after the last dose.
- **Fertility warning:** The effect of this medicine on fertility is not known. If you plan to have children, talk with you care team.

Revised September 2025