

Neratinib (Nerlynx)

About This Drug

NERATINIB (ner A ti nib) treats breast 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

- Soreness of the mouth and throat. You may have red areas, white patches, or sores in your mouth that hurt.
- Nausea and vomiting (throwing up)
- Pain in your abdomen
- Diarrhea (loose bowel movements)
- Bloating (distention)
- Indigestion
- Weight loss
- Decreased appetite (decreased hunger)
- Tiredness
- Nosebleed
- Changes in your liver function
- Urinary tract infection
- Muscle spasm
- Changes in your nail color, nail loss and/or brittle nail
- Rash, dry skin

Note: Each of the side effects above was reported in 5% or greater of people treated with neratinib. 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 drugs in combination. Please discuss any concerns or questions with your care team.

Warnings and Precautions

- Severe diarrhea which can cause dehydration (lack of water in the body from losing too much fluid), low blood pressure and changes in your kidney function.
- Severe changes in your liver function

Important Information

- Your care team may recommend medication to decrease your diarrhea. Take this medication exactly as directed. Please call your care team if you have diarrhea or more than 2 bowel movements a day, if you have diarrhea that does not go away, and/or if you have diarrhea with weakness, dizziness, or fever.

How to Take Your Medication

- Swallow the medicine whole with food. Do not chew, break, split, or crush it.
- Take this medicine at the same time each day.
- **Missed dose:** If you miss a dose, take your next dose at the regular time, and contact your care team. Do not take 2 doses at the same time and do not double up on the next 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 medication 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.

Treating Side Effects

- 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.
- Ask your care team about medicine that can lessen or stop your diarrhea.
- 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.
- Mouth care is very important. Your mouth care should consist of routine, gentle cleaning of your teeth or dentures and rinsing your mouth with a mixture of 1/2 teaspoon of salt in 8 ounces of water



or 1/2 teaspoon of baking soda in 8 ounces of water. This should be done at least after each meal and at bedtime.

- If you have mouth sores, avoid mouthwash that has alcohol. Also avoid alcohol and smoking because they can bother your mouth and throat.
- To help with bloating, avoid gas-producing foods, such as brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, prunes, and apricots.
- Manage tiredness by pacing your activities for the day.
- Be sure to include periods of rest between energy-draining activities.
- If you are dizzy, get up slowly after sitting or lying.
- To help with decreased appetite, 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.
- Keeping your nails moisturized may help with brittleness.
- 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.
- Moisturize your skin several times a day.
- Avoid sun exposure and apply sunscreen routinely when outdoors.
- If you have a nosebleed, sit with your head tipped slightly forward. Apply pressure by lightly pinching the bridge of your nose between your thumb and forefinger. Call your care team if you feel dizzy or faint or if the bleeding does not stop after 10-15 minutes.

Food and Drug Interactions

- Avoid grapefruit or grapefruit juice while taking this medicine as it may raise the levels of neratinib 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 drug interactions with neratinib. Also, check with your care team before starting any new prescription or over-the-counter medicines, or dietary supplements to make sure that there are no interactions.
- Medicines that treat heartburn and stomach upset may lower the effect of your cancer treatment if taken with neratinib. Call your care team to find out what medicine you may take with neratinib to help with heartburn or upset stomach.
- This drug may interact with St. John's Wort and may lower the levels of the drug 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 dizzy or lightheaded
- Nosebleed that does not stop bleeding after 10-15 minutes
- Pain in your mouth or throat that makes it hard to eat or drink
- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking and/or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Throwing up more than 3 times a day
- Lasting loss of appetite or rapid weight loss of five pounds in a week
- Diarrhea, 4 times in one day or diarrhea with lack of strength or a feeling of being dizzy
- Decreased or very dark urine
- Signs of a urinary tract infection such as burning or pain when you pass urine, trouble urinating, smelly and/or cloudy urine, pain in your lower abdomen or lower/side of your back.
- Pain or uncomfortable bloating in your abdomen that does not go away
- Muscle spasms that are bothersome
- Pain that does not go away, or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- A new rash and/or itching or a rash that is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Dry skin that is bothersome
- Signs of inflammation/infection (redness, swelling, pain) of the tissue around your nails
- 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

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 at least 1 month after the last dose. If you can get your partner pregnant, use birth control 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 at least 1 month after the last dose.
- **Fertility warning:** This medicine may affect your ability to have children in the future. If you plan to have children, talk with your care team

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