

Vemurafenib (Zelboraf)

About This Medicine

VEMURAFENIB (vem ue RAF e nib) treats skin cancer. It may also be used to treat blood and bone marrow cancers. 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
- Tiredness
- Pain in the joints
- Rash
- Sensitivity to sunlight/light. You may get a skin rash/reaction while being out in the sun, sun lamps and tanning beds.
- Itching
- New skin growths
- Hair loss. Hair loss is often temporary, although with certain medicine, hair loss can sometimes be permanent. Hair loss may happen suddenly or gradually. If you lose hair, you may lose it from your head, face, armpits, pubic area, chest, and/or legs. You may also notice your hair getting thin.

Note: Each of the side effects above was reported in 30% or greater of people treated with vemurafenib. 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

- Blurred vision or other changes to your eyes such as swelling in the eye, and/or sensitivity to light (photosensitivity); photosensitivity means that you may become more sensitive to the sun and/or light. Your eyes may water more, mostly in bright light.
- Abnormal electrocardiogram (EKG/ECG)
- Allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, are rare but may happen in some people. Signs of allergic reaction to this medicine may be swelling of the face, feeling like your tongue or throat are swelling, trouble breathing, rash, itching, fever, chills, feeling dizzy, and/or feeling that your heart is beating

in a fast or not normal way. **If this happens, do not take another dose of this medicine. You should get urgent medical treatment.**

- Changes in your liver function
- Changes in your kidney function, which can cause kidney failure.
- Severe allergic skin reaction. You may develop blisters on your skin that are filled with fluid or a severe red rash all over your body that may be painful.
- 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.
- Thickening of the tissue in your hands, which may cause one or more fingers to stay permanently bent towards the palm of your hand. You also may develop lumps (nodules) at the bottom of your feet. These may be painful and may make it difficult to walk.
- This medicine may raise your risk of getting a second cancer and/or the development of skin lesions that may or may not be cancer.
- If you have received radiation treatments, your skin may become red after vemurafenib, which can be life-threatening. This reaction is called “radiation recall.” Your body is recalling, or remembering, that it had radiation therapy.

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

- Swallow the medicine whole with or without food. Do not chew or crush tablets.
- **Missed dose:** If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you think about it. If it is within 4 hours of your next dose, then skip the missed dose and take your next dose at the regular time.
- If you vomit a dose, take your next dose at the regular time. 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 with the lid tightly closed.
- 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.

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.
- 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.
- Keeping your pain under control is important to your well-being. Please tell your care team if you are experiencing pain.
- Use sunscreen and lip balm 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.
- Wear dark sunglasses when in the sun or bright lights.
- 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.
- To help with itching, moisturize your skin several times a day.
- If you have received radiation, and your skin becomes red or irritated again, follow the same care instructions you did during radiation treatment. Be sure to tell your care team administering your chemotherapy about your skin changes.
- To help with hair loss, wash with a mild shampoo and avoid washing your hair every day. Avoid coloring your hair.
- Avoid rubbing your scalp, pat your hair or scalp dry.
- Limit your use of hair spray, electric curlers, blow dryers, and curling irons.
- If you are interested in getting a wig, talk to your care team and they can help you get in touch with programs in your local area.

Food and Medicine Interactions

- This medicine may interact with grapefruit and grapefruit juice. Talk to your care team as this 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 vemurafenib. 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.
- 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



- Blurred vision or other changes in eyesight or to your eyes
- Develop sensitivity to sunlight/light
- Feeling that your heart is beating in a fast or not normal way (palpitations)
- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking and/or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Throwing up more than 3 times a day
- Pain that does not go away, or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- 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
- Decreased or very dark urine
- Signs of allergic reaction: swelling of the face, feeling like your tongue or throat are swelling, trouble breathing, rash, itching, fever, chills, feeling dizzy, and/or feeling that your heart is beating in a fast or not normal way. **If this happens, call 911 for emergency care.**
- New skin lesions
- New lumps (nodules) on your feet
- Thickening of the tissue in your hand, difficulty moving one or more fingers
- A new rash and/or itching that is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Flu-like symptoms: fever, headache, muscle, and joint aches, and fatigue (low energy, feeling weak)

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 2 weeks after the last dose. Tell your care team right away if you think you might be pregnant.
- **Breastfeeding warning:** Do not breastfeed while taking this medicine and for 2 weeks 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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