



# Ponatinib (Iclusig®)

## Information for Patients and Families

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**Ponatinib (Iclusig)** is an oral medicine that your doctor prescribed for the treatment of your cancer. Please take your **ponatinib** as directed by your prescriber.

### How is this medication taken?

- Take your **ponatinib** at approximately the same times each day.
- Take **ponatinib** with a large glass of water. **Ponatinib** can be taken with or without food.
- Contact your cancer clinic if you are unable to take **ponatinib** as prescribed, including if you are unable to swallow the tablet.

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

- Do not eat grapefruit or drink grapefruit juice while on this medicine.
- There are multiple drug and herbal interactions with **ponatinib**. Please contact your cancer clinic or the UMCCC oral medications for cancer therapy 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 **ponatinib**. Some examples of medications/herbal products that may interact include: antibiotics like clarithromycin, antifungals like voriconazole (Vfend), anti-seizure medicines like phenytoin (Dilantin) and Phenobarbital, the steroid dexamethasone (Decadron), and herbal products like ginseng and St. John's Wort. These are only some examples so please contact your cancer clinic or UMCCC oral medications for cancer therapy service if you start taking anything new.

**What side effects can occur with ponatinib therapy?**

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

<b>Common Side Effects</b>	<b>What Can I Do?</b>	<b>When to Call your Cancer Clinic</b>
<b>Headache</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please use an over-the-counter pain medicine as directed by your cancer clinic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Headache that will not resolve after 24 hours with over-the-counter medicine</li> </ul>
<b>High Blood Pressure</b> Onset within ~ 3 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blood pressure over 150/90 or less than 100/60 or as instructed by your clinic provider</li> </ul>
<b>Abdominal Pain</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unable to stay hydrated-<b>CONTACT IMMEDIATELY</b></li> <li>• Pain that is severe, not treated by your pain medication, and/or is associated with an acute change in bowel habits or with nausea/vomiting</li> </ul>
<b>Nausea/Vomiting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay well-hydrated</li> <li>• Use anti-nausea medication prescribed by the clinic</li> <li>• Eat smaller, more frequent meals/snacks (avoid empty stomach)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unable to stay hydrated or hold down fluid (not able to drink 8-10 cups of liquid per day) – <b>CONTACT IMMEDIATELY</b></li> <li>• The anti-nausea medication prescribed is not working</li> </ul>
<b>Constipation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay well-hydrated</li> <li>• Eat at regular times each day</li> <li>• Include high fiber and “bulky” foods</li> <li>• Be as active a possible</li> <li>• See “Nutritional Management of Constipation” handout</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No bowel movement in 3 or more days</li> <li>• Abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting</li> </ul>
<b>Rash</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid direct sunlight (cover exposed areas of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If rash becomes bothersome, if there are any open areas, or if</li> </ul>

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Common Side Effects	What Can I Do?	When to Call your Cancer Clinic
	skin and use sunscreen) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use antihistamines (anti-itch) medications as prescribed</li> <li>• Apply non-scented lotion to affected areas to avoid dryness</li> </ul>	you are unable to perform normal daily activities due to the rash <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If rash is itchy despite use of antihistamine medications</li> <li>• If the skin is bleeding or looks red and/or infected</li> <li>• If multiple areas of the body are affected by the rash</li> </ul>
<b>Liver Dysfunction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The clinic will monitor your labs to assess</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yellowing of eyes or skin</li> </ul>
<b>Decrease in blood cell counts</b> (white blood cells, red blood cells, and platelets)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wash hands regularly</li> <li>• Avoid close contact with others who are sick</li> <li>• Avoid activities with high potential for injury and bleeding (e.g. contact sports, etc.)</li> <li>• The clinic will monitor your labs to assess</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temperature of 100.5°F or higher- CONTACT IMMEDIATELY</li> <li>• Any signs of infection</li> <li>• Unusual tiredness or weakness</li> <li>• Shortness of breath, difficulty breathing</li> <li>• Unusual bleeding or bruising</li> <li>• Dizziness/lightheadedness</li> </ul>
Less Common Side Effects	What Can I Do?	When to Call your Cancer Clinic
<b>Blood Clots</b> (Deep Vein Thrombosis/Pulmonary Embolism)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shortness of breath</li> <li>• Chest pain</li> <li>• Swelling/tenderness/redness in the leg or arm</li> </ul>
<b>Pancreatitis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The clinic will monitor your labs to assess</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you have persistent nausea, vomiting, and abdominal or back pain</li> </ul>

### 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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