Erlotinib

- **Erlotinib** (er-LOE-tye-nib) is a drug that is used to treat a type of lung cancer. It is a tablet that you take by mouth. The tablet contains lactose.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to erlotinib before treatment begins.
- It is important to **take** erlotinib exactly as directed by your doctor. Erlotinib should be taken with a glass of water, on an empty stomach, either one hour before or two hours after eating.
- If you **vomit** within 30 minutes of taking erlotinib, **you can repeat the dose**. Let the doctor know as a medication to prevent nausea may be required for future doses.
- If you **miss a dose** of erlotinib, take it as soon as you can if it is within 12 hours of the missed dose. If it is over 12 hours since your missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times.
- Some drugs, herbal products and supplements may **interact** with your treatment. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any of these or before you start taking any new drugs.
- **Anti-hyperacid medications (Antacids)** may alter the efficacy of your medication, refer to your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or planning to take any of them.
- **Avoid grapefruit and grapefruit juice,** as these may interact with erlotinib.
- Erlotinib may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with erlotinib. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breast feed during treatment.
- **Tell** doctors, dentists or other health care providers that you are being treated with this medication before you receive any other treatment from them.
- **Store** erlotinib tablets out of the reach of children, at room temperature, away from heat, light and moisture.

Side effects that may occur and tips for management

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Nausea and vomiting may occur.	You may be given a prescription for anti-nausea drug(s) to take before your treatment and/or at home. It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred, so follow directions closely. • Drink plenty of liquids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts.
Skin reactions such as **rash, dryness, or itchiness** are common.	• Moisturizing creams can help prevent or reduce skin dryness. • If skin reactions persist or get worse, contact the doctor (during working hours).
Diarrhea may occur.	To help diarrhea: • Drink plenty of liquids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts. • Avoid high fiber foods • Tell your doctor, since you may need a prescription for loperamide. **Note**: Tell your doctor if **lactose** in milk usually gives you diarrhea, the lactose in the tablet may be causing your diarrhea.
Sore mouth may occur a few days after treatment. Mouth sores can occur on the tongue, the sides of the mouth or in the throat. **Mouth sores or bleeding gums can lead to an infection.**	• Brush your teeth gently after eating and at bedtime with a very soft toothbrush. If your gums bleed, use gauze instead of a brush. Use baking soda instead of toothpaste. • Make a mouthwash with ½ teaspoon baking soda or salt in 1 cup warm water and rinse several times a day. • Try soft, bland foods like puddings, milkshakes and cream soups. • Avoid spicy, crunchy or acidic food, and very hot or cold foods.
Tiredness and lack of energy may occur.	• Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you are feeling tired. • If tiredness persists or gets worse, tell your doctor at your next visit.
Hair loss does not occur with erlotinib.	
Your skin may darken in some areas such as your hands, elbows and knees.	This will slowly return to normal once you stop treatment with erlotinib. Exposure to the sun might make this worse, so: • Avoid direct sunlight. • Wear a hat, long sleeves and long pants or skirt outside on sunny days. • Apply a sun block lotion with an SPF (sun protection factor) of at least 30.
Decreased appetite sometimes occurs.	

SEE YOUR DOCTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (DURING OFFICE HOURS) IF YOU HAVE:

- Signs of **lung problems** that are new or suddenly getting worse, such as dry cough or shortness of breath.
- Signs of **bleeding problems** such as black, tarry stools; blood in urine; pinpoint red spots on skin, extensive bruising.
- Signs of **liver problems** such as yellow eyes or skin, white or clay-colored stools.
- **Eye irritation or changes in eyesight**.

CHECK WITH YOUR DOCTOR IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONTINUE OR BOTHER YOU:

- Uncontrolled nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.
- Redness, swelling, pain or sores on your lips, tongue, mouth or throat.
- Skin rash or itching.

REPORT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS TO YOUR DOCTOR

This is a summary of useful information to help you understand and take your medicine safely .

We are available to answer your questions For urgent inquiries contact :

- **Urgent care unit at the National Center of Cancer Care and Research (NCCCR) TEL : 44397179 (available 24 hours, all week days).**

For further information or question contact :

- **Your doctor** (from 7 am – 3 pm) .
- **Clinical Pharmacy section,** TEL: 44397239 (Sun-Thurs from 7 am – 3 pm) .
- **Outpatient Pharmacy**, TEL: 44397531, 44397825 (Sun-Thurs from 7 am – 3 pm) .

Pharmacy Department

18-0243