

## MEDICATION INFO SHEET

# DASATINIB (da-SAT-in-ib)

**Other Names for this Medication:** Sprycel® (*Brand Name*)

**Appearance:**

White Tablets: 20mg, 50mg, 70mg or 100mg in various sizes and shapes

**Why this Medication is Used:**

Dasatinib is used for the treatment of chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) or acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL).

**How do you take this Medication:**

Dasatinib should be taken exactly as prescribed by your doctor. It may be taken with or without food. The tablets should be swallowed whole with a large glass of water. Do not have any grapefruit and grapefruit juice while on this medication.

**Precautions:**

- Dasatinib may cause severe side effects and the dose may need to be adjusted. It is important that you contact your doctor immediately if you are unwell and have any severe side effects.
- Dasatinib may increase the risk of serious irregular heart rhythms in patients with a history of this or who are on certain medications. Tell your doctor if you have had irregular heartbeats before.
- Blood levels of dasatinib can be affected by the use of other medications (lowering of blood levels may make dasatinib less effective, while increases in the blood levels may lead to more side effects). Make sure your doctor and pharmacist have a complete list of all medicines and supplements (including over the counter ones and herbal products) that you are taking. Do not start or stop taking any medicines/supplements without first checking with your doctor and pharmacist.
- Let your doctor know if you are taking any anti-acid drugs such as ranitidine (Zantac), famotidine (Pepcid) or antacids (e.g. Maalox, Tums). If antacid must be taken, it may be taken up to 2 hours before or 2 hours after dasatinib.
- Dasatinib should not be used if you are pregnant or breast-feeding or if you or your partner may become pregnant (i.e. have not been sterilised/have not gone through menopause). Effective contraception with 2 methods is essential during treatment with dasatinib and for at least 2 weeks after stopping dasatinib.
- Rarely, dasatinib may increase your chance of bleeding. Because of this, you should avoid using blood thinners, or drugs that also affect bleeding such as aspirin and nonsteroidal anti inflammatory drugs such as ibuprofen (Advil®). For headache, fever, or occasional aches and pains, use *acetaminophen (Tylenol®)* instead. If you are taking aspirin or blood thinners for other medical problems, do not stop taking it before you have discussed this with your doctor.
- Store in a cool dry place and **keep out of reach of children.**

Information presented here are events likely to take place, but some rare events may have been excluded.  
For more information on this medication, please call your oncologist, pharmacist or nurse.

SIDE EFFECTS	PREVENTION	WHAT YOU SHOULD DO		
		Contact Dr		Comments
		Right away	If doesn't improve	
<b><u>MORE COMMON:</u></b> (>10%)				
Swollen arms and legs, puffiness, breathlessness	Elevate feet when sitting, Take low salt diet. Avoid tight fitting clothing.		√	
Black, tar-like stools; bruising, nosebleed; coughing up blood	Use a soft toothbrush. Avoid aspirin or ibuprofen like drugs.	√		Phone your doctor immediately or go to the nearest emergency department. See <a href="#">Low Platelets</a> pamphlet.
Low white blood cells, fever & chills, sweating, infections	Limit contact with sick people. Rest often. Wash your hands often. See <a href="#">Low White Blood Cells</a> pamphlet.	√		Recognize signs of infection. Phone your doctor or go to the nearest emergency department if your temperature is over 38°C or 100°F.
Pale skin, weakness, breathlessness, anemia	Rest often. Eat well-balanced meals. Some mild exercise may help. See <a href="#">Anemia</a> pamphlet.	√		May need medication or blood transfusion to correct low red blood cells.
Diarrhea	Limit hot, spicy and fried foods, foods or drinks with caffeine.		√	Drink plenty of fluids. See <a href="#">Diarrhea</a> pamphlet. Take anti-diarrhea medication if given to you by your doctor.
Nausea & Vomiting	Drink clear fluids and avoid large meals. Get fresh air and rest. See <a href="#">Nausea &amp; Vomiting</a> pamphlet.		√	Take anti-nauseant medication if given to you by your doctor.
Low salts in your blood (phosphate and calcium)	Eat well balanced meals.	√		Contact your doctor if you experience any muscle weakness/cramp, trembling, numbness, tingling or confusion.
Headache, joint /muscle pain	Rest often, but take mild exercise.		√	May take 1-2 Acetaminophen tablets every 4 hours when required
Rash, acne, dry, itchy skin	Avoid exposure to the sun. Use sunblock.		√	Skin may become sensitive to light.
Tiredness, dizziness, ringing in your ears	Rest often. Eat well-balanced meals and drink plenty of fluid. Mild exercise may help. Get up slowly.		√	Do not drive a motor vehicle/ operate machinery, if you have these side effects.
Poor appetite and weight loss, or weight gain	Eat foods that you like and try and eat regular small meals. Use meal supplements if possible.		√	See a dietician.
Constipation, cramps, pain in your belly	Eat a high fibre diet with whole grains, fruit and raw vegetables. Drink plenty of fluids. Light exercise.		√	Try over the counter laxatives. See <a href="#">Constipation</a> Pamphlet.
Difficulty breathing, cough	Avoid contact with people with colds and flu.		√	
Sores in the mouth / lips	Maintain good mouth hygiene. Brush teeth often with a soft toothbrush. Avoid hot, spicy and acidic foods.		√	Use mouthwashes if you were given them by your doctor. See <a href="#">Mouth Care</a> pamphlet.
Tingling /numb toes/fingers			√	May return to normal after treatment
<b><u>LESS COMMON:</u></b> (1 -10%)				
High or low blood pressure, cardiac failure, irregular heart beats		√		Contact your doctor immediately
Thin, reddened painful skin on hands or feet	Rest often, keeping off your feet. Wear loose foot-wear. Use a moisturizing cream on your hands& feet		√	See <a href="#">Hand-Foot Syndrome</a> pamphlet.
Swelling, red, painful joints of feet or hands	Drink plenty of fluid. Take anti gout medication if given to you by your doctor for prevention.	√		May indicate onset of gout.
Depression, anxiety, trouble sleeping, or sleepiness	Try to talk with family and friends. Maintain proper nutrition, exercise, and good sleep habits.		√	If persists for ≥2 weeks or suicidal thoughts, contact your doctor.
Strokes or mini strokes	Make sure your blood pressure is under control.	√		
Shortness of breath, cough, wheezing; may be severe		√		May indicate inflammation of the lungs
Hair thinning, darkening of skin and nails			√	May return to normal when treatment stops
<b><u>RARE:</u></b> (<1%)				
Yellowing of skin and white of eyes, gallstone pain		√		May indicate inflammation of the liver
Severe muscle pain and breakdown leading to kidney failure		√		Symptoms: swelling of feet and legs/ difficulty to urinate
Breast enlargement in male and menstrual irregularity			√	May return to normal when treatment stops