Afatinib (Gilotrif®)

Pronounced: [a-FA-ti-nib]

About Your Medication

- Afatinib is an oral medicine that your doctor prescribed for the treatment of your cancer. Please take your afatinib as directed by your prescriber.

How to Take Your Medication

- Take your afatinib at approximately the same time each day
- Take afatinib on an empty stomach
  - 1 hour before or 2 hours after a meal
- If a dose is missed, make it up within 12 hours before your next dose is due
- Do not take two doses on the same day to make up for a missed dose.

Tell Your Healthcare Provider if you have any trouble taking your afatinib, including:

- Trouble swallowing pills
- Forgetting to take doses
- Trouble affording your medications
- Throwing up pills
- Side effects

Important Precautions

- Afatinib may be harmful to an unborn child. If sexually active with a partner that is pregnant or who may become pregnant during and for several weeks after treatment, two forms of contraception must be used (a condom and another effective form of birth control).
- It is not known whether afatinib passes into breast milk. Nursing mothers should discuss with their healthcare providers whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue afatinib.
- Afatinib has been associated with serious, sometimes fatal, interstitial lung disease
- Hepatotoxicity, which may be severe and/or result in fatal liver failure, has been observed with afatinib
What foods and drugs may interact with my afatinib?

Please talk to your healthcare provider at your cancer clinic before starting or stopping any medications, vitamins, or herbal supplements, because some of these may interact with your afatinib. Some examples of products that interact with afatinib include:

- Grapefruit or grapefruit juice
- Certain anti-infectives such as rifampin (Rifadin®)
- Anti-seizure medicines, including carbamazepine (Tegretol®), phenobarbital (Luminal®), and phenytoin (Dilantin®)
- Antivirals like ritonavir (Norvir®), nelfinavir (Viracept®), and saquinavir (Invirase®)
- Some medications for mood, like St. John’s Wort and nefazodone (Serzone®)
- Certain antifungals, such as itraconazole (Sporanox®), ketoconazole (Nizoral®), posaconazole (Noxafil®), and voriconazole (Vfend®)
- Antibiotics like ciprofloxacin (Cipro®) and levofloxacin (Levaquin®)
- Heart rhythm medications like quinidine, verapamil (Calan®) and amiodarone (Cordarone®)
- Immunosuppressants like cyclosporine (Gengraf® and Neoral®) and tacrolimus (Prograf®)

Storage, Handling, and Disposal

It is important to keep these safeguards in mind when storing and handling oral anticancer therapy to keep you and your caregivers safe.

- Keep your afatinib in a safe place, away from other family members’ medications and away from any food or drinks.
- Store the medication at room temperature in a dry location – avoid storing your medication in the bathroom.
- Store afatinib in its original container.
- Keep the medication out of reach from children and pets.
- Return expired, damaged, or unused afatinib to a pharmacy or hospital for disposal. Do not discard into the garbage or toilet, or anywhere that children or pets may have access.
# Afatinib (Gilotrif®) Side Effect Summary

This list does not include all possible side effects of afatinib. If you have an unusual symptom, call the clinic. Below are the most common side effects:

- **Diarrhea** – frequent and/or watery bowel movements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What are your symptoms?</th>
<th>What can you do...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Mild diarrhea** – stools are more loose/watery or you are having 1-3 more stools per day than usual | • Stay well hydrated  
• Avoid fatty, greasy, spicy foods that may increase your risk for diarrhea  
• Avoid caffeine and alcohol  
• Eat small, frequent meals; foods that are easy on the stomach include bananas, rice, applesauce, and toast  
• Use your antidiarrheal medicine, loperamide (Imodium®) 4 mg at the onset of diarrhea, then 2 mg every 2 hours until diarrhea-free for 12 hours  
• If diarrhea is not improving after 48 hours of treatment with your antidiarrheal medicine, or you are having trouble staying hydrated, call the clinic |
| **Moderate diarrhea** - you are having 4-6 more stools per day than usual; you are still able to perform your normal daily activities | • Try to manage using the measures listed above.  
• If diarrhea is not improving within 24 hours, or you are having trouble staying hydrated, call the clinic |
| **Severe diarrhea** – you are having 7 or more stools per day than usual, or you are having trouble staying hydrated or performing normal daily activities, or you are not making it to the bathroom in time | • Stop taking the afatinib and call the clinic |

- **Nail infection**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Can I Do?</th>
<th>When to Call the Clinic?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Splint finger with gauze to decrease discomfort | • Persistent nail infections  
• Fingers become painful, red or drain pus |
### Skin Conditions – dry skin/rash/acne

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>What Can I Do?</strong></th>
<th><strong>When to Call the Clinic?</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| - Apply non-scented lotion to affected areas to avoid dryness  
  - Avoid direct sunlight (cover exposed areas of skin and use sunscreen)  
  - Use anti-histamines (anti-itch) medications as prescribed  
  - Discuss the rash/acne with your provider | - Dry skin becomes painful  
  - If rash becomes bothersome, if there are any open areas, or if you are unable to perform normal daily activities due to the rash  
  - If rash is itchy despite use of antihistamine medications  
  - If the skin is bleeding or looks red and/or infected  
  - If multiple areas of the body are affected by the rash |

### Anorexia – decreased appetite/inability to eat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>What Can I Do?</strong></th>
<th><strong>When to Call the Clinic?</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| - Stay well-hydrated  
  - Eat smaller, more frequent meals/snacks that are high in calories | - Unable to stay hydrated-CONTACT IMMEDIATELY  
  - Unable to eat  
  - If you have had a rapid increase in weight (i.e. 5 pounds or more in one week) |
Below are some less common side effects of afatinib.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Less Common Side Effects</th>
<th>What Can I Do?</th>
<th>When to Call the Clinic?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eye problems (may be seen within 2 weeks)</td>
<td>• The clinic will monitor to assess</td>
<td>• Eye pain, swelling, or redness or any changes in vision such as flashes of light, blurred vision, floaters in your field of vision, or light hurting your eyes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liver Dysfunction</td>
<td>• The clinic will monitor your labs to assess</td>
<td>• Yellowing of eyes or skin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung Disease (pneumonitis)</td>
<td>• The clinic will monitor to assess</td>
<td>• If you have new symptoms such as wheezing, shortness of breath, or a new cough</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Who to Call With Questions?

If you are having an emergency, call 911

<Clinic Contact Info>
<Clinic Contact Info>
<Clinic Contact Info>
Information to have ready for each appointment:

- Number of missed doses per month: ____

- Problems receiving your medication (cost, insurance issues, etc; circle one): Yes / No

- New medications (Please call clinic before starting or stopping any medications):
  _______________________________________________________________
  _______________________________________________________________
  _______________________________________________________________

- Symptoms and what you’ve done to address them:
  _______________________________________________________________
  _______________________________________________________________
  _______________________________________________________________

- Other concerns or questions:
  _______________________________________________________________
  _______________________________________________________________
  _______________________________________________________________

Who to Call With Questions?

If you are having an emergency, call 911

<Clinic Contact Info>
<Clinic Contact Info>
<After-Hours Contact Info>
**Information to have ready for each appointment:**

- Number of missed doses per month: ____
- Problems receiving your medication (cost, insurance issues, etc; circle one): Yes / No
- New medications (Please call clinic before starting or stopping any medications):
  ________________________________________________________________
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- New medications (Please call clinic before starting or stopping any medications):
  
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**Who to Call With Questions?**

If you are having an emergency, call 911

<Clinic Contact Info>

<Hours for contacting clinic>

<After-Hours Contact Info>