

## Alectinib (Alecensa)

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Here is important information on how to use, handle, and store your medicine, what side effects to look for and how to manage them.

**What it looks like:** White capsules marked “ALE”.

### How to handle and store:

- **There are special safe handling instructions for this medicine.** Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse about the precautions you need to follow when you take this medicine home.
- It is safe to handle this medicine as a whole tablet.
- Store in closed container at room temperature in a dry place such as a cabinet away from light, heat, and moisture.
- **Do not** store in your bathroom or in refrigerator.
- Keep this medicine away from children and **do not** share it with anyone.

### Filling your Alectinib prescription:

- You will need to get your medicine from a specialty pharmacy that has Alectinib in stock.
- Talk to your treatment team to find a specialty pharmacy near you.

### How to take:

- Swallow capsules whole with a full glass of water 2 times each day. Take this medicine with food.
- **Do not** take more medicine than ordered by your doctor.
- **Do not** crush, break, chew or open the capsules.
- If you miss a dose, skip the missed dose. **Do not double up on doses.**
- Use a calendar or diary to keep track of what days and what times you take this medicine.

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**This handout is for informational purposes only. Talk with your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.**

## Disposal:

- Talk with your doctor or pharmacist about how to get rid of prescription medicines safely.

## Precautions:

- Tell your doctor or pharmacist about any medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medications, vitamins and herbal products.
- **Do not get pregnant or plan a pregnancy while on this medicine.** This medicine can cause **birth defects** when taken by both **women and men**. Talk with your doctor about using **2 methods** of birth control.
- **Do not breastfeed while on this medicine** and for 1 week after your last dose.

## Possible Side Effects

You can find more information on side effects in the Patient Education booklet, *Treatment with Chemotherapy and Anti-Cancer Medicines*.

## Muscle pain

**What this means:** You may have muscle pain, tenderness or weakness.

### What to do:

- Talk to your doctor before you take any over-the-counter pain medicine.
- Drink water during the day.
- Get plenty of rest.
- **Do not** lift heavy objects.
- Call your doctor if your muscle pain makes you unable to do your normal daily activities.

## Slow heartbeat

### What to do:

- Call your doctor if you have severe dizziness, changes with your vision or and episodes of passing out.
- Tell your doctor if you have changes in your heart rate or blood pressure.

## **Abnormal Blood Tests**

**What this means:** Your doctor will order blood tests often while you take this medicine.

### **What to do:**

- It is important to keep your appointments to have your blood work checked.
- Eat a healthy, well-balanced diet and drink plenty of water during the day.
- Call your doctor if you have dark urine or yellowing of your skin or eyes.
- Your doctor may order other medicine to help manage this problem.

## **Difficulty Breathing or Cough**

### **What to do:**

- Call your doctor if you have any changes in your ability to breathe.
- Tell your doctor if you have a cough that will not go away.
- Call your doctor if you have a fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) or higher.

## **Constipation**

### **What to do:**

- Eat foods that are high in fiber.
- Drink plenty of water during the day.
- Call your doctor if you have increased straining or abdominal (belly) pain with bowel movements.
- Talk to your doctor about using stool softeners or laxatives.
- Call your doctor if you do not have a bowel movement for 2 days or you are uncomfortable because you are unable to have a bowel movement.

## **Nausea and Vomiting**

### **What to do:**

- Call your doctor if you are unable to keep down fluids for more than 24 hours or if you feel lightheaded or dizzy.
- Eat small meals or snacks often during the day. Stay away from spicy or high-fat foods.
- Drink water during the day.
- Call your doctor if your nausea makes you unable to take this medicine.

## Skin Problems

**What this means:** You may get a rash, have some itching or become more sensitive to sunlight.

### **What to do:**

- Call your doctor if you get a rash. Tell your doctor when the rash started, the location of your rash, if it is itchy or painful and if the rash has spread or is getting worse.
- Your doctor may tell you to take an over-the-counter medicine to help with this problem.
- Protect your skin from sunlight. Wear clothes to cover your skin and use sunscreen (at least SPF 30).
- **Do not** use tanning beds.
- **Do not** use acne medicines or drying agents on your rash. These can make your rash worse.

## Swelling/Fluid Retention

**What this means:** You may see swelling in your feet or lower legs. You may also gain weight.

### **What to do:**

- Call your doctor if you have any swelling or major weight gain.
- Your doctor may ask you to wear compression stockings or make changes in your diet to help manage this problem.

**This is not a complete list of all possible side effects. Tell your doctor if you have these or any other side effects that you think are caused by this medicine. Your James health care team can give you other tips for how to manage your side effects.**