

# ORAL CHEMOTHERAPY EDUCATION



National Community Oncology  
Dispensing Association, Inc.  
PASSION FOR PATIENTS



## BRIGATINIB

### Name of your medication

Generic name — brigatinib (brih-GA-tih-nib)

Brand name — Alunbrig® (uh-LUN-brig)

### Approved uses

Brigatinib is used to treat metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) that has a genetic mutation called anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK).

### Dose and schedule

Taking brigatinib as instructed is important to allow your treatment to be as effective as possible, so here are some key points to remember.

- Your dose may vary, but the usual dose of brigatinib is 90 milligrams (90 mg) to be taken by mouth at a scheduled time, once a day for the first seven days. Then, the dose may increase to 180 milligrams (180 mg) to be taken by mouth at a scheduled time, once a day.
- Brigatinib can be taken with or without food, but at the same time each day.
- Brigatinib should be taken whole and not crushed, cut, or dissolved. If you are unable to swallow brigatinib, talk to your care provider or pharmacist for possible options.
- If you miss a dose of brigatinib, **do not** take an extra dose or two doses at one time. Simply take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Be sure to write down if you miss a dose and let your care provider know about any missed doses.

### Storage and handling

Handle brigatinib with care. Just like when chemotherapy is given into the vein, this drug can be toxic, and exposure of the drug to others should be limited.

- Store brigatinib at room temperature (68°F–77°F) in a dry location away from light.
- Keep brigatinib out of reach of children and pets.
- Leave brigatinib in the provided packaging until it is ready to be taken.
- Whenever possible, you should give brigatinib to yourself and follow the steps below. If a family member, friend, or caregiver needs to give the brigatinib to you, they also need to follow these steps.
  1. Wash hands with soap and water.
  2. Put on gloves to avoid touching the medication. (Gloves are not necessary if you give the drug to yourself.)
  3. Gently transfer the brigatinib from its package to a small medicine or other disposable cup.
  4. Administer the medicine immediately by mouth with water.
  5. Remove gloves and do not use them for anything else.
  6. Throw gloves and medicine cup in household trash.
  7. Wash hands with soap and water.

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- ❑ If a daily pill box or pill reminder is used, a separate one should be used for brigatinib. **Do not** mix other medications into the box with brigatinib. The person filling the box or reminder should wear gloves. (Gloves are not necessary if you are filling the box or reminder.) When empty, the box or reminder should be washed with soap and water before refilling. Be sure to wash hands with soap and water after the task is complete, whether or not gloves are worn.
- ❑ If you have any unused brigatinib, **do not** throw it in the trash and **do not** flush it down the sink or toilet. Talk to your care provider or pharmacist about proper disposal of brigatinib.
- ❑ If you are traveling, put your brigatinib in a sealed plastic bag. Ask your pharmacist if any additional travel precautions are needed.

### Handling body fluids and waste

Since brigatinib remains in your body for several days after it is taken, some of the drug may be present in urine, stool, sweat, or vomit. Once you have started to take brigatinib, it is important to know the following instructions every day for as long as your treatment lasts. This is to keep yourself, loved ones, and the environment as safe as possible.

- ❑ Pregnant women should avoid touching anything that may be soiled with body fluids from the patient.
- ❑ Toilet and septic systems
  - You may use the same toilet, septic tank, and/or sewer that you usually use. If you have a low-flow toilet, close the lid and flush twice to ensure all waste has been discarded.
  - If the toilet or toilet seat becomes soiled with urine, stool, or vomit, clean the surfaces before other people use the toilet.
  - Wash hands with soap and water after using the toilet.
- ❑ If you need a bedpan, be sure your caregiver knows to wear gloves to assist with cleanup and to wash the bedpan with soap and water every day.
- ❑ If you do not have good control of bladder or bowels, use a disposable pad with a plastic back, a diaper, or a sheet to absorb body waste.
- ❑ Wash any skin that has been exposed to body waste or brigatinib with soap and water.
- ❑ Linens or clothing that are soiled with body fluids or body waste should be washed separately from other linens and clothing. If you do not have a washer, place the soiled linens in a plastic bag until they can be washed.
- ❑ Wash hands with soap and water after touching linens or clothing that may be soiled with body fluids.

### Drug and food interactions

- ❑ Brigatinib has many drug interactions. Inform your care providers of all prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, vitamins, and herbal products.
- ❑ Grapefruit or grapefruit juice may interact with brigatinib; avoid eating or drinking these during treatment with brigatinib.
- ❑ Talk with your care provider or pharmacist before taking new medications or supplements, or receiving any vaccines.

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### Side Effects of Brigatinib

The common side effects that have been known to happen in more than 30% of patients taking brigatinib are listed in the left side of this table. You **MAY NOT** experience these side effects. Options to help manage any side effects that do occur are included on the right side of this table. These should be discussed with your care provider. If you experience any side effect you cannot manage or that is not listed here, contact your care provider.

Possible Side Effect	Management
<b>Changes in liver function</b>	<p>Your liver function will be checked periodically by a simple blood test. Contact your care provider if you notice any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yellowing of the skin or whites of your eyes</li> <li>• Dark or brown urine</li> <li>• Unusual bleeding or bruising</li> </ul>
<b>Changes in electrolytes and other laboratory values</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High glucose levels</li> <li>• High creatine phosphokinase levels</li> <li>• High lipase levels</li> <li>• High amylase levels</li> </ul>	<p>Changes in some lab values may occur and will be monitored by a simple blood test.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may not feel any symptoms if the changes are mild, and they usually are not a sign of a serious problem.</li> <li>• More severe changes may occur, which can be a sign of a serious problem.</li> </ul> <p>Notify your care provider if you have any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shortness of breath</li> <li>• Chest discomfort</li> <li>• Weakness or fatigue</li> <li>• New aches and pains</li> <li>• Headaches</li> <li>• Dizziness</li> <li>• Swelling of your legs or feet</li> <li>• Red- or brown-colored urine</li> </ul>
<b>Nausea or vomiting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eat and drink slowly.</li> <li>• Drink 8-10 glasses of water or fluid each day unless your care provider has instructed you to limit your fluid intake.</li> <li>• Eat small, frequent meals throughout the day rather than a few large meals.</li> <li>• Eat bland foods; avoid spicy, fried, and greasy foods.</li> <li>• Avoid vigorous exercise immediately after eating.</li> <li>• Don't lie down immediately after eating.</li> <li>• Avoid strong odors.</li> </ul> <p>Let your provider know if you experience nausea or vomiting. Your provider may prescribe medication to help with the nausea or vomiting.</p>

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Possible Side Effect	Management
<p><b>Decreased hemoglobin, part of the red blood cells that carry iron and oxygen</b></p>	<p>Your hemoglobin should be monitored using a blood test. When your hemoglobin is low, you may notice that you get tired or fatigued more easily.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try to get 7–8 hours of sleep per night.</li> <li>• Avoid operating heavy machinery if you feel too tired.</li> <li>• Find a balance between work and rest.</li> <li>• Stay as active as possible, but know that it is okay to rest as needed.</li> <li>• You might notice that you are more pale than usual.</li> </ul> <p>Let your care provider know right away if you experience any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shortness of breath</li> <li>• Dizziness</li> <li>• Palpitations</li> </ul>
<p><b>Diarrhea (lose and/or urgent bowel movements)</b></p>	<p>Monitor how many bowel movements you have each day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink 8–10 glasses of water/fluid each day unless your care provider has instructed you to limit your fluid intake.</li> <li>• Eat small, frequent meals throughout the day rather than a few large meals.</li> <li>• Eat bland, low-fiber foods (such as bananas, applesauce, potatoes, chicken, rice, and toast).</li> <li>• Avoid high-fiber foods, such as raw vegetables, raw fruits, and whole grains.</li> <li>• Avoid foods that cause gas, such as broccoli and beans.</li> <li>• Avoid lactose-containing foods, such as yogurt and milk.</li> <li>• Avoid spicy, fried, and greasy foods.</li> </ul> <p>Contact your provider if any of the following occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of bowel movements you have in a day increases by four or more.</li> <li>• You feel dizzy or lightheaded.</li> </ul> <p>Your care provider may recommend an over-the-counter medication called loperamide (Imodium®) to help with your diarrhea, but talk to your care provider before starting this medication.</p>
<p><b>Fatigue</b></p>	<p>You may be more tired than usual or have less energy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay as active as possible, but know it is okay to rest as needed, too.</li> <li>• Try to do some activity every day.</li> <li>• Plan your activities, and do them at a time of day when you feel a bit more energetic.</li> <li>• Avoid operating heavy machinery if you feel too tired.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cough or shortness of breath</b></p>	<p>A cough that does not produce any mucous or congestion relief (dry cough) may occur while taking this medication. If you experience any breathing problems or shortness of breath, notify your care provider immediately. This may be a serious side effect of the medication.</p>

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If you experience ANY uncontrolled side effect, call your physician or healthcare center immediately:

\_\_\_\_\_ (INSTITUTIONAL CONTACT INFO)

### Pregnancy, sexual activity, and contraception

- Women should not become pregnant and men should not get a partner pregnant while taking brigatinib. Women of childbearing age and potential should use effective contraception during therapy and for a minimum of four months after the last dose of brigatinib. Men with female partners of childbearing age and potential should use effective contraception during therapy and for a minimum of three months after the last dose of brigatinib.
- Do not breastfeed while taking brigatinib and for one week after the last dose of brigatinib.
- Please inform your care provider if you become pregnant.
- It is safe to hug and kiss. Special precautions may be needed for sexual activity while on oral chemotherapy, and you are encouraged to ask your care provider.

### Obtaining medication

- Talk with your care provider about the process for obtaining your brigatinib.

\_\_\_\_\_ (PHARMACY OR SPECIALTY PHARMACY CONTACT INFO)

### Additional resources

**Product website:** [www.alunbrig.com](http://www.alunbrig.com)

**Product prescribing information:** [www.alunbrig.com/assets/pi.pdf](http://www.alunbrig.com/assets/pi.pdf)

**Product resources:** [www.ariadpass.com/patient\\_alunbrig.html](http://www.ariadpass.com/patient_alunbrig.html)

*Updated – November 6, 2017*

### Additional instructions

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**Important notice:** The Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC), Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA), National Community Oncology Dispensing Association, Inc. (NCODA), and Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) have collaborated in gathering information for and developing this patient education guide. This guide represents a brief summary of the medication derived from information provided by the drug manufacturer and other resources. This guide does not cover all existing information related to the possible uses, directions, doses, precautions, warnings, interactions, adverse effects, or risks associated with this medication and should not substitute for the advice of a qualified healthcare professional. Provision of this guide is for informational purposes only and does not constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation, or favoring of this medication by ACCC, HOPA, NCODA, or ONS, who assume no liability for and cannot ensure the accuracy of the information presented. The collaborators are not making any representations with respect to the medications whatsoever, and any and all decisions, with respect to such medications, are at the sole risk of the individual consuming the medication. All decisions related to taking this medication should be made with the guidance and under the direction of a qualified healthcare professional.

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