

Erlotinib



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Manufacturer[Natco Pharma](#)

Description

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What is Erlotinib?

This medication is used to treat cancer.

What does Erlotinib contain and how does it work?

The active ingredient is erlotinib, a cancer drug from the group of protein kinase inhibitors. Protein kinases are enzymes that phosphorylate other proteins in the cell and thus regulate their activity. In normal cells, the activity of protein kinases is tightly regulated, while in cancer cells it is often out of control and excessive. This causes disruptions in the functioning of many cellular pathways and, therefore, leads to increased cell division and uncontrolled tumor growth. Inhibition or inhibition of excessive activity of protein kinases is the therapeutic goal of this group of anticancer drugs. Erlotinib inhibits the activity of protein tyrosine kinase, which is part of the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR). Inhibition of this kinase by erlotinib leads to inhibition of cell division and apoptotic death of the tumor cell. It is used to treat lung cancer and pancreatic cancer.

When to use Erlotinib?

It is indicated for treatment in such cases.

- the disease stabilized after 4 cycles of standard first-line chemotherapy based on platinum derivatives; in these patients, the drug is indicated as monotherapy for maintenance treatment
- treatment failed after at least one chemotherapy regimen.

There was no evidence of survival benefit or other clinically significant effects in the treatment of cancer patients without epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) expression.

It is also indicated for the treatment of patients with metastatic pancreatic cancer (combination therapy with gemcitabine). There was no survival benefit in patients with locally advanced cancer.

When should you not use Erlotinib?

Unfortunately, even if there are indications for use, it is not always possible to use it. You cannot use this medicine if you are allergic (hypersensitive) to any of the ingredients. Avoid using the product during pregnancy and breastfeeding.

Erlotinib dosage

Means in the form of tablets for oral administration. The drug should be taken at least 1 hour before meals or at least 2 hours after meals. The tablet should be swallowed whole (without chewing, without breaking, without chewing, etc.) with a glass of water. If you have any doubts about the use of the drug, consult a specialist. The doctor will select the dosage and determine the duration of treatment individually, depending on the indications and the clinical situation. Your doctor will adjust your dosage during treatment. It will depend on your response to treatment and the severity of the side effects.

Non-small cell lung cancer:

Adults: 150 mg daily.

Pancreatic oncology:

Adults: 100 mg daily. For people who do not develop a rash within the first 4 to 8 weeks of treatment, the doctor will consider continuing therapy. If dose adjustments are necessary, your doctor will advise you to gradually reduce the dose (usually 50 mg).

If your blood counts drop significantly during treatment, see your doctor immediately. Your doctor will consider administering hematopoietic growth factors and / or discontinuing treatment.

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