

Abiraterone acetate (conventional) (Zytiga)

About This Drug

Abiraterone acetate (Zytiga) is used to treat cancer. It is given orally (by mouth).

Possible Side Effects

- Decrease in the number of white blood cells and/or red blood cells. This may raise your risk of infection or make you tired and weak.
- Diarrhea (loose bowel movements)
- Nausea and vomiting (throwing up)
- Tiredness
- Swelling of the hands, feet, or any other part of the body
- Hot flashes or sudden skin flushing may happen. You may also feel warm or red.
- Changes in your liver function
- Increase in your cholesterol level and triglycerides
- Blood sugar levels may change
- Decreased level of potassium in your blood
- Pain in the joints
- Headache
- Cough
- Upper respiratory tract infection
- High blood pressure

Note: Each of the side effects above was reported in 10% or greater of patients treated with abiraterone acetate (Zytiga). Not all possible side effects are included above.

Warnings and Precautions

- Severe high blood pressure
- Severe low potassium, which can cause abnormal heartbeats and be life-threatening
- Severe swelling and/or weight gain
- Changes to the adrenal glands that may affect hormone production
- Changes in your liver function, which may be life-threatening

- Increased risk of bone fracture and death when abiraterone acetate (Zytiga) and prednisone or prednisolone is used in combination with radium Ra 223 dichloride
- Increased risk of low blood sugar in patients taking certain types of medicines that treat type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Note: Some of the side effects above are very rare. If you have concerns and/or questions, please discuss them with your medical team.

Important information

- Abiraterone acetate (Zytiga) is usually taken in combination with prednisone. Some patients may also be taking a GnRH analog medication. Follow your doctor's instructions for how to take your medications. Do not stop taking your medications without consulting your doctor.
- Do not substitute the micronized abiraterone product (Yonsa) for the conventional product (Zytiga), or the conventional product (Zytiga) for the micronized product (Yonsa).

How to Take Your Medication

- Swallow this medicine whole with water on an empty stomach. Do not eat food 2 hours before or 1 hour after taking this medicine. Do not crush or chew tablets.
- **Missed dose:** If you miss a dose of abiraterone acetate (Zytiga), take your next dose at the regular time. Do not take 2 doses at the same time and do not double up on the next dose. If you miss more than one dose, call your doctor.
- **Handling:** Wash your hands after handling your medicine, your caretakers should not handle your medicine with bare hands and should wear latex gloves.
- Women that are pregnant or are trying to become pregnant should not handle abiraterone acetate (Zytiga) without protection such as gloves.
- This drug may be present in the saliva, tears, sweat, urine, stool, vomit, semen, and vaginal secretions. Talk to your doctor and/or your nurse about the necessary precautions to take during this time.
- **Storage:** Store this medicine in the original container at room temperature.
- **Disposal of unused medicine:** Do not flush any expired and/or unused medicine down the toilet or drain unless you are specifically instructed to do so on the medication label. Some facilities have take-back programs and/or other options. If you do not have a take-back program in your area, then please discuss with your nurse or your doctor how to dispose of unused medicine.

Treating Side Effects

- Manage tiredness by pacing your activities for the day.
- Be sure to include periods of rest between energy-draining activities.
- To decrease the risk of infection, wash your hands regularly.
- Avoid close contact with people who have a cold, the flu, or other infections.
- Take your temperature as your doctor or nurse tells you, and whenever you feel like you may have a fever.



- Drink plenty of fluids (a minimum of eight glasses per day is recommended).
- If you throw up or have diarrhea, you should drink more fluids so that you do not become dehydrated (lack of water in the body from losing too much fluid).
- If you have diarrhea, eat low-fiber foods that are high in protein and calories and avoid foods that can irritate your digestive tracts or lead to cramping.
- Ask your nurse or doctor about medicine that can lessen or stop your diarrhea.
- To help with nausea and vomiting, eat small, frequent meals instead of three large meals a day. Choose foods and drinks that are at room temperature. Ask your nurse or doctor about other helpful tips and medicine that is available to help stop or lessen these symptoms.
- If you have diabetes, keep good control of your blood sugar level. Tell your nurse or your doctor if your glucose levels are higher or lower than normal.
- Keeping your pain under control is important to your well-being. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you are experiencing pain.

Food and Drug Interactions

- Abiraterone acetate (Zytiga) should be taken on an empty stomach.
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist about all other prescription medicines and over-the-counter medicines and dietary supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbs, and others) you are taking before starting this medicine as there are known drug interactions with abiraterone acetate (Zytiga). Also, check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new prescription or over-the-counter medicines, or dietary supplements to make sure that there are no interactions.
- This drug may interact with St. John's Wort and may lower the levels of the drug in your body, which can make it less effective.
- There are known interactions of abiraterone acetate (Zytiga) with some medicines that treat type 2 diabetes mellitus. Ask your doctor what precautions you should take.

When to Call the Doctor

Call your doctor or nurse if you have any of these symptoms and/or any new or unusual symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher
- Chills
- Feeling that your heart is beating fast or in a not normal way (palpitations)
- Cough that is bothersome and/or coughing up yellow, green, or bloody mucus
- Wheezing and/or trouble breathing
- A headache that does not go away
- Blurry vision or other changes in eyesight
- Tiredness that interferes with your daily activities
- Feeling dizzy or lightheaded
- Confusion
- If you have an infection or are under unusual stress
- Diarrhea, 4 times in one day or diarrhea with lack of strength or a feeling of being dizzy



- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking and/or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Throwing up more than 3 times a day
- Loss of appetite or unexplained weight loss
- Signs of possible liver problems: dark urine, pale bowel movements, pain in your abdomen, feeling very tired and weak, unusual itching, or yellowing of the eyes or skin
- Signs of possible low potassium levels: weakness, tiredness, muscle cramps, constipation
- Pain that does not go away or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Abnormal blood sugar
- Unusual thirst, passing urine often, headache, sweating, shakiness, irritability
- Swelling of the hands, feet, or any other part of the body
- Muscle weakness or pain in your legs
- Weight gain of 5 pounds in one week (fluid retention)
- If you think you may have impregnated your partner

Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** This drug can have harmful effects on an unborn baby and cause loss of pregnancy. Women who are pregnant or may become pregnant should not take abiraterone acetate (Zytiga) and should not handle abiraterone acetate (Zytiga) without protection, such as gloves. Abiraterone acetate (Zytiga) is not indicated for use in women.
- Men with female partners of childbearing potential should use effective methods of birth control during your cancer treatment and for 3 weeks after your cancer treatment. Let your doctor know right away if you think you may have impregnated your partner.
- **Breastfeeding warning:** It is not known if this drug passes into breast milk. Abiraterone acetate (Zytiga) should not be used during breastfeeding and is not indicated for use in women.
- **Fertility warning:** In men, this drug may affect your ability to have children in the future. Talk with your doctor or nurse if you plan to have children. Ask for information on sperm banking.

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