



Patient Education

Lapatinib (la pa' ti nib)

Other Names

Tykerb®. (There may be other names for this medication.)

How is it
Administered?

This medication is taken by mouth as a tablet.

Why am I Taking
Lapatinib?

Lapatinib is used with capecitabine (Xeloda®) to treat certain types of advanced breast cancer in people who have already been treated with other chemotherapy medications.

How Does it
Work?

Lapatinib is not a traditional chemotherapy medication; it is in a class of medications called tyrosine kinase inhibitors, a type of targeted therapy.

Traditional chemotherapy drugs identify cancer cells by their rapid rate of reproduction, and then attack those cells. Unfortunately, there are normal cells in our bodies that reproduce quickly and these cells are also attacked by chemotherapy.

Lapatinib is designed to work differently. It attaches to a protein (EGFR - Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor) on the surface of the cancer cells and interferes with the cells' ability to grow and reproduce. This helps stop or slow the spread of cancer cells.