## Dasatinib (da-SA-ti-nib)

### Brand Name
Sprycel®

### How is Dasatinib Administered?
Dasatinib comes as a tablet, which is taken by mouth. You may take it with or without food.

### What is it Used For?
Dasatinib is used for CML (chronic myeloid leukemia). It is also used for ALL (acute lymphocytic leukemia) with a specific DNA mutation called the Philadelphia chromosome. Dasatinib may also be used for other leukemias or conditions if your physician feels it may be beneficial.

### How does it Work?
Dasatinib is a type of targeted therapy, rather than tradition chemotherapy. Specifically, it is a tyrosine kinase inhibitor (TKI).

Cancer is a group of diseases in which abnormal cells multiply without control. Traditional chemotherapy agents identify cancer cells by their rapid rate of multiplication— and then attack those cells. Unfortunately, it also attacks normal cells that multiply quickly. Targeted therapy identifies other differences between normal cells and cancer cells, and then uses that difference to attack the cancer cells, sparing the normal cells.

Dasatinib works by blocking the action of an abnormal protein that signals cancer cells to multiply.

### What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin Receiving Dasatinib?
Tell your doctor if you:
- have had an allergic reaction to dasatinib in the past
- are taking warfarin (Coumadin®), aspirin, products containing aspirin, over-the-counter pain medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements
- are taking any medications to prevent or manage heartburn or acid reflux (GERD)
- are pregnant or breastfeeding

*This drug may interact with other medications or cause harmful side effects.* Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal or diet supplements that you are taking.

### What Are Some Possible Side Effects I May Experience?
- Low blood counts (decreased red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets), which increase your risk of fatigue, infections, and bleeding problems. You may need blood transfusions while on dasatinib. If the condition is severe, we may need to lower your dose of dasatinib.
• **Fluid retention**: Excess fluids can build up in your legs, face, abdomen, or other areas of the body. If fluid collects around your lung, you may feel short of breath or have a dry cough. Call your doctor immediately if you experience new or worsening shortness of breath. We may need to decrease or hold your dasatinib dose in order to manage this side effect.

• **Diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, decreased appetite**

• **Generalized weakness or dizziness**

• **Fever, headache, muscle or bone pain**

• **Skin rash**

• **Changes in heart rhythm** have been reported, but are uncommon.

**How Can I Manage These Side Effects?**

• If your blood counts drop, you may be instructed to use an electric razor, instead of a conventional razor blade, and to avoid contact sports or activities that could cause injury. This will reduce the risk of bleeding.

• If your doctor says you are at risk for infection, stay away from large crowds or people with a cold, flu, or other infections. Wash your hands often and talk to your doctor before you have any vaccination.

• If you have a low platelet count, be aware that intercourse and other sexual activities may cause bleeding. Talk to your doctor or nurse about whether sexual activity is safe for you at this time. If intercourse is permitted, use a water-based lubricant and avoid forceful thrusting.

• Drink at least 2-3 quarts of fluid (especially water) every 24 hours, unless your doctor tells you otherwise.

• Ask your doctor about medication to help prevent or lessen nausea and vomiting if you develop either side effect. Try taking dasatinib with food to decrease nausea.

• Monitor your weight daily using a scale at home. Keep a log of your daily weights to screen for fluid accumulation.

• Get plenty of rest and maintain good nutrition.

• Acetaminophen and ibuprofen may help with discomfort from fever, headache, and aches and pains but talk to your doctor before taking any of these medications.

• You may burn more easily, so avoid exposure to direct sunlight. Wear protective clothing and sunscreen with SPF of 30 or higher.

• Drinking alcoholic beverages should be kept to a minimum or avoided completely. Discuss this with your doctor.

**When Should I Call the Doctor?**

**Call the clinic immediately if you experience:**

• fever of 100.5°F (38°C) or higher, chills, or any other signs of infection such as a sore throat, painful urination, or a skin wound that is red, swollen, painful, and/or warm to the touch

• bleeding or easy bruising

• new or worsening shortness of breath or persistent cough
Call your doctor within 24 hours if you experience:

- swelling or weight gain greater than 2 pounds in a day or 5 pounds in a week
- nausea that interferes with eating and is not relieved with medication
- diarrhea or vomiting: 4+ episodes within 24 hours
- dark black or tarry stools or blood in stool or urine
- extreme fatigue that makes it difficult to care for yourself

What Else Should I Know About Dasatinib?

- Swallow dasatinib whole – do not chew, crush, or break the tablets.
- Dasatinib may be taken with or without food.
- **You must remember to take dasatinib every day**, as prescribed. Consider using a tablet box or a reminder system to help you remember to take your medication.
- If you develop heartburn, you may take over-the-counter antacid medications but you must take them more than 2 hours before or 2 hours after taking dasatinib. Other types of heartburn medications should be avoided including omeprazole (Prilosec®), esomeprazole (Nexium®), pantoprazole (Protonix®), rabeprazole (Aciphex®), lansoprazole (Prevacid®), ranitidine (Zantac®), and famotidine (Pepcid®)
- The amount dasatinib you will receive is dependent on many factors and your doctor will determine your exact dosage and schedule. Do not stop taking dasatinib without notifying the doctor.
- If you miss a dose of dasatinib, take next scheduled dose at its regular time; do not take 2 doses at once in order to catch up for the missed dose.
- Avoid grapefruit, grapefruit juice, and supplements with grapefruit extract while on dasatinib.
- Both men and women should use effective methods of birth control while taking dasatinib. Barrier methods such as condoms and diaphragms are recommended during treatment and for 30 days after treatment ends. This drug may be harmful to a fetus.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or may become pregnant prior to starting dasatinib.
- Breast feeding while on dasatinib is discouraged. Talk to your doctor for more details.
- You will have regularly scheduled lab tests while on this medication to watch your blood counts and you liver and kidney function.
- If you have any questions about dasatinib, please talk to your doctor.