



BC Cancer Agency

CARE + RESEARCH

An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

For the Patient: UGUPABI

Palliative Therapy for Metastatic Hormone Refractory (Castration Resistant) Prostate Cancer using Abiraterone and Prednisone

U = Undesignated (requires Compassionate Access Program (CAP) approval)

GU = GenitoUrinary (tumor group)

P = Prostate

ABI = ABiraterone

ABOUT THIS MEDICATION

What are these drugs used for?

- Abiraterone in combination with prednisone are used to treat prostate cancer that has spread to other parts of the body in patients who have had prior cancer treatment with DOCEtaxel

How do these drugs work?

- Abiraterone stops your body from making androgens (male hormones like testosterone) and this can slow the growth of prostate cancer.

TREATMENT SUMMARY

How are these drugs given?

- Abiraterone is a tablet which is taken by mouth once daily.
- Take abiraterone on an empty stomach once a day, at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after a meal.
- Take abiraterone at around the same time every day.
- Do not split, chew or crush abiraterone tablets. Swallow whole.
- Prednisone is a tablet that can be taken by mouth once daily or as a split dose twice daily.
- Take prednisone with food to avoid any stomach upset.
- If you forget to take abiraterone or prednisone, take your normal dose the following day.
- If you forget to take abiraterone or prednisone for more than one day, talk to your doctor.

What will happen when I get my drugs?

- A blood test is done every 2 to 4 weeks. The dose and timing of your treatment may be changed based on your blood tests and/or other side effects.

SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

The doctor will review the risks of treatment and possible side effects with you before starting treatment. Tell your doctor if you have or have had any liver problems since abiraterone may affect your liver.

Some of the side effects of abiraterone include: joint swelling or pain, muscle pain, fluid in your legs or feet.

Tell your doctor if you are noticing burning on urination or cloudy urine as it may be a sign of a urinary tract infection.

If you notice any of the following: muscle weakness, muscle twitches or a pounding heart (palpitations), stop abiraterone and contact your doctor immediately. These may be signs of low potassium in your blood.

It is important that you measure your blood pressure frequently at home, in particular in the beginning of your treatment (especially in the first few months of therapy). Tell your doctor if you have or have had high blood pressure in the past.

If you experience symptoms or changes in your body that have not been described above but worry you, or if any symptoms are severe, contact _____ at telephone number _____