

Erlotinib (Tarceva™)

Erlotinib is a medicine given to treat lung cancer and other cancers. It works by interfering with the cancer cell's signal that controls its growth.

How Is It Given?

- tablet (by mouth)

What Side Effects May Occur?

This is a partial list of the side effects you may have with this medicine. You may have some, all or none of those listed, or you may have other side effects not listed. Most side effects last only a short time.

Common:

- rash
- diarrhea

Less common:

- difficulty breathing
- cough
- loss of appetite
- fatigue
- infection
- mouth sores
- itching or dry skin
- eye irritation or pain
- increase in liver enzymes
- nausea (feel like throwing up) or vomiting (throwing up)

Special Notes

- This medicine may cause a problem with your lungs (interstitial lung disease). It is important to let your doctor know if you have new or worsening problems with breathing or coughing.
- This medicine can interact with warfarin (Coumadin®) and other Coumadin-related medicines. As a result, you may have an increased risk for bleeding
- Tell your doctor if you are taking any antibiotics, anti-HIV medicines, phenytoin (Dilantin®), carbamazepine (Tegretol®), phenobarbital or St. John's wort. Please tell your doctor about all other medicines you are taking (prescription, over-the-counter or natural/herbals).
- Talk with your doctor about birth control. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant. You should not breastfeed while you are taking this medicine.

When To Call Your Doctor

Call your doctor if you have:

- new or worsening trouble with breathing or coughing
- severe or continuing diarrhea
- severe skin problems
- fever, chills or sore throat
- vomiting you cannot control
- eye problems.

Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you want more complete medicine information or if you have questions.