

Imatinib (Gleevec[®])

Imatinib is an anti-cancer medicine used to treat many types of cancer, including some types of leukemias and myelodysplastic disease.

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:

- fatigue (feeling very tired)
- swelling
- headache
- skin rash
- diarrhea (loose stools)
- nausea (upset stomach) and a decrease in appetite
- bleeding
- low protein
- low neutrophils, platelets and white blood cells

- muscle cramps
- cough
- anemia (low red blood cell count)

Less common:

- trouble sleeping
- anxiety or depression
- lung problems such as a cough

When To Call Your Doctor

You should call your doctor if you have:

- allergic reaction:
 - itching
 - hives
 - swelling in your face and hands
 - tingling in your mouth or throat
- chest pain
- pounding heartbeat
- fainting
- feeling dizzy
- fast weight gain.

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