

Capecitabine (Xeloda®)

Capecitabine is an anti-cancer drug that stops cell growth and division. This medicine is used to treat breast, colon or rectal cancers.

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:

- lowered white blood cells, red blood cells and platelets
- nausea (upset stomach) or vomiting (throwing up)
- diarrhea (loose stools)
- mouth sores
- hand-foot syndrome (pain, redness, swollen or tingling hands and/or feet), which can turn into blisters
- abdominal (belly) pain
- dry, itchy skin or rash
- fatigue

Less common:

- eye irritation
- trouble sleeping
- hair loss
- headache or dizziness
- loss of appetite

Special Notes

- Take capecitabine tablets with water within 30 minutes after the end of a meal.
- You may have to take a combination of 150 mg and 500 mg tablets for each dose. It is important you know what the tablets look like. Taking the wrong tablets could result in an overdose (too much medicine) or underdose (too little medicine).
- Capecitabine is usually taken for 14 days in a row followed by a 7-day rest period.
- Some medicines may interact with capecitabine. Please tell your doctor if you are taking any of the following:
 - folic acid
 - antacids (such as Maalox®)
 - warfarin (Coumadin®).

When To Call Your Doctor

You should call your doctor if you have:

- more than 4 bowel movements each day or any diarrhea at night
- vomiting more than once in a 24-hour time period
- pain, redness, swelling, or sores in your mouth
- painful, swollen, tingling, or red hands, feet or both
- fever of more than 100.5 F
- severe nausea (if you lose your appetite, and the amount of food you eat each day is much less than usual).

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