



CAPECITABINE

OTHER NAMES: Xeloda®

PURPOSE: Capecitabine is a drug used in the treatment of cancer. It interferes with the growth and spread of tumor cells.

ADMINISTRATION: Capecitabine is taken by mouth in the form of tablets.
Capecitabine should be swallowed with water within 30 minutes after the end of a meal.

SIDE EFFECTS: Not all patients will experience all side effects.

SIDE EFFECT	MANAGEMENT
Diarrhea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have an extra 4 bowel movements each day or any diarrhea at night, stop taking capecitabine immediately and contact your physician or nurse. You may be advised to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease high fibre foods. • Drink only clear fluids. Avoid milk and milk products • Medicine may be helpful, but use only on the advice of your doctor.
Nausea and vomiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you vomit more than once in a 24-hour period, stop taking capecitabine immediately and contact your physician or nurse. • You may be given medications to prevent or control nausea and vomiting. • Drink plenty of fluids.
Hand and foot syndrome (the palms of your hands and the soles of your feet may tingle, become numb, swollen, or red.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is usually mild. • If the symptoms become worse, and pain and swelling or blisters are present, contact your physician or nurse.
Mouth sores, including the lining of the mouth, throat, tongue, and gums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have painful sores, redness, or swelling in your mouth, stop taking capecitabine and contact your physician or nurse.

SIDE EFFECT	MANAGEMENT
Lowered blood counts. You may be more susceptible to infections, colds and flu, bruising or bleeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have a cough, sore throat, high fever (38° C [100°F] or above), chills, or pain and burning when you pass urine, stop taking capecitabine and contact your physician or nurse. • Do not take acetaminophen (Tylenol® or others) for fever or other signs or infection unless approved by your doctor or nurse. • Wash hands often and avoid people with infections if possible. • Your blood counts will be checked routinely and before you receive treatment again. Your dose may be adjusted accordingly.
Other symptoms you may experience include eye irritation, abdominal pain, loss of appetite and fatigue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report these to your doctor.

OTHER IMPORTANT PRECAUTIONS:

- Other medications may interact with capecitabine. Do not start taking new medications or herbal products without checking with your doctor or pharmacist. Tell your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist if you are taking any other prescription or non-prescription medicine, vitamin, or herbal product.
- Inform other doctors, dentists, or pharmacists that you are taking capecitabine.
- Inform your doctor, nurse, and pharmacist if you develop any new allergies or sensitivities.
- If you experience any symptoms or problems not listed above, inform your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.
- Discuss fertility, pregnancy and breast feeding with your doctor if applicable.
- Precautions should be taken when handling cytotoxic drugs. If you handle tablets or capsules with unprotected hands, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.

- STORAGE:**
- Store capecitabine at room temperature away from heat, direct light, and moisture.
 - Whenever possible, return unused medication to the pharmacy from which it was dispensed for proper disposal.

If you have any questions regarding this or any other drug therapy, please phone your cancer centre.

Cross Cancer Institute – (780) 432-8771, Tom Baker Cancer Centre – (403) 521-3764
 Central Alberta Cancer Centre – (403) 343-4802, Grande Prairie Cancer Centre – (780) 538-7288
 Lethbridge Cancer Centre – (403) 329-0633, Medicine Hat Cancer Centre – (403) 529-8817

OR