

Lorlatinib (Lorviqua®)

Lorlatinib (Lorviqua®) is a type of anti-cancer treatment called a targeted therapy. It is a medication used in the treatment of cancers with ALK gene mutations. The aim of this treatment is to control the cancer and its symptoms by blocking the growth of cancer cells. Your doctor or nurse will be happy to answer any questions you may have about your treatment. You may find it useful to refer to The Christie booklet 'Chemotherapy – a guide' which gives general information on staying well during anti-cancer treatments.

Your treatment

Your doctor or nurse has prescribed an anti-cancer treatment called lorlatinib (Lorviqua®) which is a tablet taken by mouth. The usual dose is 100mg tablet, taken once a day. The tablet should be taken with or without food at the same time each day with water. Do not chew or dissolve the lorlatinib tablet.

Do not eat grapefruit or drink grapefruit juice while taking lorlatinib. If you miss a dose, it should be taken as soon as you remember, UNLESS the next dose is due within 4 hours, in which case you should not take the missed dose. Do not take a double dose to make up for a missed dose. If you vomit after taking a dose, do not repeat the dose.

While you are taking lorlatinib we will review you in clinic on a regular basis. This will be every 2 weeks initially and then monthly follow-ups. You will have a routine blood test before the start of each cycle of treatment. The dose of your medication may be adjusted if you experience side effects.

This treatment can have serious or possibly life-threatening side effects. It is very important that you report side effects straight away. Don't delay, if you feel unwell, please ring The Christie Hotline on **0161 446 3658**. The lines are open 24 hours a day.

If you are taking any other medicines

It is important to tell the doctor or nurse if you are taking medicine for any other condition. Some medicines can react/interfere with lorlatinib, so always tell your doctor about any other medicines or tablets you are taking or any herbal medications or supplements.

Make sure your doctor knows if you have had any inflammation of the lungs (pneumonitis), or liver problems.

Flu vaccinations

Is it alright for me to have a flu jab during the time I'm having treatment? It's safe to have a flu jab but depending on the sort of anti-cancer treatment you have had, it may not give quite as much protection against infection as usual. Some patients may need 2 vaccinations. However, if you're thinking of having any other vaccinations, do check with your Christie doctor first, because some vaccines should be avoided.



COVID-19 vaccinations

We advise that all patients receive a COVID-19 vaccination when this is offered. Your doctor will discuss with you the best time to have this.

Possible side effects

This treatment can cause many different side effects. Some are more likely to occur than others. Everyone is different and not everyone gets all the side effects. Most side effects are usually temporary, but in some rare cases they can be life-threatening. It is important to tell your hospital doctor or nurse about any side effects so they can be monitored and, where possible, treated.

- **Shortness of breath or coughing (pneumonitis) (Warning!)**

This treatment can cause inflammation of the tissue in your lungs. Symptoms of this include a cough that will not settle, fever or breathing difficulties. If you develop severe shortness of breath, it is important to contact The Christie Hotline on **0161 446 3658** straight away as this may be serious.

Very common side effects (more than 1 in 10)

- **Fatigue**

Some treatment may make you feel tired and lacking in energy. It can be frustrating when you feel unable to cope with routine tasks. If you do feel tired, take rest and get help with household chores. If necessary, take time off work. Gentle exercise such as a daily walk can be beneficial.

- **Weight gain**

Some patients may experience weight gain while taking lorlatinib. It is important to maintain a healthy lifestyle and discuss any concerns with your healthcare team.

- **High cholesterol and triglyceride levels**

Lorlatinib can increase cholesterol levels in the blood. Regular monitoring of cholesterol levels and appropriate management with medications may be necessary.

- **Mood changes**

Some patients may experience mood changes, such as depression or anxiety, while taking lorlatinib. It is important to communicate any emotional or psychological symptoms to your healthcare team.

- **Cognitive effects**

Lorlatinib may cause cognitive effects, such as memory problems or difficulty concentrating, speech or sleep problems. You should take special care when driving or using machinery due to these effects. If you experience these symptoms, inform your healthcare team.

- **Vision changes**

Some patients may experience vision changes, such as blurred vision or sensitivity to light. If you notice any changes in your vision, inform your healthcare team.

- **Dizziness**

Some patients may experience dizziness and headaches. If you notice any changes, inform your healthcare team.

- **Diarrhoea**

If diarrhoea occurs you should take loperamide. Take 2 capsules as soon as the first liquid stool occurs. Then take one capsule with each liquid stool up to a maximum of 8 in 24 hours. If you continue to have more than 3 liquid stools a day, if you are having diarrhoea at night or if the diarrhoea continues for more than 3 days contact The Christie Hotline for advice. You should also contact The Hotline if you have any blood or mucous in your stools, or they become a darker colour. If you develop any tenderness or pain in your abdomen ring The Christie Hotline.

- **Nausea and vomiting (sickness)**

The severity of this varies from person to person. Anti-sickness medication will be given along with your treatment if needed. If you continue to feel or be sick, contact your GP or The Christie Hotline.

- **Constipation**

Try to drink plenty of fluids and eat foods high in fibre. Tell your doctor who may prescribe a suitable laxative. Ask the staff for a copy of 'Eating – help yourself' which has useful ideas about diet when you are having treatment.

- **Inflammation of the liver**

We will be checking your liver blood tests before each cycle of treatment but contact The Christie if you develop yellowing of the skin or eyes (jaundice) have very dark urine or pain on the right side of your stomach.

- **Skin rash / sensitivity in sun**

You may develop a skin rash. This is usually mild and easily treated. However, it can vary from mild to severe. Contact The Christie Hotline or your medical team if the rash covers more than half of your body, if it is very itchy or painful, you develop blisters or peeling skin, or if you have sores in your mouth. Always use a high factor SPF50+ as sun protection.

- **Decreased appetite**

You may lose your appetite and find eating large meals more difficult. It is best to try to eat smaller portions but do carry on trying to eat something even if you do not feel very hungry. Ask your nurse or doctor for advice on what to eat if this is causing you problems or you have unexpected weight loss. Ask staff for a copy of the booklet 'Eating – help yourself'.

- **Oedema**

Some patients may notice swelling of feet and ankles. Keep your legs elevated when you can. Discuss any swelling with your doctor or nurse.

- **Pancreatic Inflammation**

Abnormal pancreatic enzyme test results and inflammation of the pancreas. Your healthcare team will monitor your blood tests and let you know if there any changes needed.

- **Muscle and joint aches**

Tell your clinical team if you notice any pains in your joints. Stretching or gentle exercise may help.

- **Nerve pains**

You may experience weakness, or sensations such as tingling or pins and needles. Discuss any changes with your doctor or nurse.

- **Anaemia**

Your clinical team will monitor your bloods for anaemia. Report any symptoms such as extreme fatigue or breathlessness. Sometimes anaemia can be treated with additional medications or a blood transfusion.

Common side effects (1 in 10 to 1 in 100 people)

- **Heart rhythm and cardiac toxicity**

Lorlatinib can cause a slow or irregular heart rate. We will monitor your heart with an ECG (heart trace). If you experience light headedness, dizziness, fainting or palpitations you should inform your healthcare team. If you experience chest pain, you should seek immediate medical help.

- **Raised blood sugar**

Your clinical team will monitor your blood tests and let you know if there any changes needed (e.g. to diet or medications). Tell your doctor or nurse if you are experiencing any extreme thirst or passing urine more frequently.

Serious and potentially life-threatening side effects

Not all side effects have been listed and there may be some rare and unusual side effects that we are unaware of. Please contact the medical team if you experience any new or unusual symptoms.

- **Blood clots**

Having cancer and receiving anticancer treatment can increase your risk of having a blood clot. This can be a serious symptom. If you notice any swelling, pain or redness in your leg or arm you should report this to your doctor or nurse. Sudden worsening of breathing, chest pain and coughing blood can all be signs of a blood clot in your lungs. If you notice any of these symptoms you should report this to your doctor or nurse immediately.

Sex, contraception and fertility

We recommend that you or your partner use a barrier form of contraception during sexual intercourse, while you are on lorlatinib. This treatment is dangerous to unborn babies, and this will also protect you and your partner from any drugs that may be present in semen and in the vagina. If you suspect that you may be pregnant, please tell your doctor immediately. You should not take lorlatinib if you are pregnant.

Men receiving treatment with lorlatinib are advised not to attempt to get somebody pregnant during treatment and to use effective contraception during treatment and for 14 weeks after stopping.

Women of childbearing age being treated with lorlatinib should avoid becoming pregnant. Effective non-hormonal contraception must be used during treatment and for 5 weeks after stopping lorlatinib.

A highly effective non-hormonal method of contraception (condoms) is required for female patients during treatment with lorlatinib, because lorlatinib can make hormonal contraceptives ineffective.

Lorlatinib may affect your ability to have children. Your doctor or nurse should have discussed this with you. If not, please ask them before you start treatment.

It is not known if lorlatinib passes into breast milk. Do not breastfeed whilst taking lorlatinib or for 1 week after your last dose.

Contacts

If you have any general questions or concerns about your treatment, please ring the lung team:

Administration enquiries **0161 918 7606/7653**

Lung Specialist nurse **0161 918 2595**

For urgent advice ring The Christie Hotline on **0161 446 3658** (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Your consultant is:

Your hospital number is:

Your key worker is:

If you need information in a different format, such as easy read, large print, BSL, braille, email, SMS text or other communication support, please tell your ward or clinic nurse.

The Christie is committed to producing high quality, evidence based information for patients. Our patient information adheres to the principles and quality statements of the Information Standard. If you would like to have details about the sources used please contact **the-christie.patient.information@nhs.net**

For information and advice visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham, Salford or Macclesfield. Opening times can vary, please check before making a special journey.



Contact The Christie Hotline for
urgent support and specialist advice
The Christie Hotline: 0161 446 3658
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week