

# **TAKING THE MEDICATION**

## TAFINLAR® (dabrafenib)/MEKINIST® (trametinib)

Combination for Melanoma

### **HOW TO TAKE YOUR MEDICATION:**

- Mekinist should be taken the same time each day, preferably with either the morning or evening dose of Tafinlar.
- Both medications should be taken at least 1 hour before a meal or 2 hours after a meal.
- Mekinist must be stored in a refrigerator (or a refrigerated lunch pack if you are traveling) in the original bottle with the lid closely tightly to protect the medication from heat, light, and moisture. Ask your oncologist's office what to do if you forget to keep Mekinist cold.

### WHAT TO DO IF YOU MISS A DOSE:

- If you miss taking your Tafinlar dose and it is less than 6 hours until your next dose, DON'T TAKE the missed pills. If it is more than 6 hours until your next dose, take the dose.
- If you miss taking your Mekinist dose and it is less than 12 hours until your next dose, DON'T TAKE the missed pills. If it is more than 12 hours until your next dose, take the dose.

Ways that can help you remember to take your pills: You can use the attached calendar, checking off each dose you take. You could also use a smartphone alarm, or put reminders on mirrors, doors, or your laptop. You can decide what works best for you.

Be sure to bring your calendar to your visits with your oncology team.

**If you or your partner becomes pregnant:** Tell your oncology team right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant or think you are pregnant while on these medications as they can harm a developing fetus. Be sure to use effective birth control if you are a woman of child-bearing age or a man who is sexually active.

#### Common side effects of this combination therapy:

Even small side effects could be serious and you should report ALL of them to your oncologist's office. The most common side effects of taking Tafinlar/Mekinist are...

- Rash
- High blood pressure
- CoughJoint aches

- FeverChills
- Swelling of the face, arms, or legs
- Thickening of the skin

- NauseaDiarrhea
- Headache
- Warts

Vomiting

Hair loss

You may want to keep a notebook as your treatment diary and write down when you take your pills, how many pills you take, and if you have any side effects.

Be sure to bring this treatment diary to your visits with your oncology team.

# SIGNS OF AN ALLERGIC REACTION TO THE MEDICATIONS:

Stop taking your medications and get medical help immediately if you have any of these signs of a serious allergic reaction:

- · A rash or redness all over your body
- Trouble breathing or swallowing
- · Swelling of the face, lips, or tongue
- · Tightness in the throat or a hoarse voice
- · Feeling faint
- · A fast heartbeat.

#### **IMPORTANT SIDE EFFECTS**

Your oncology team may discuss some side effects of Tafinlar/Mekinist that can lead to serious problems if they aren't taken care of right away. These sections give information about possible symptoms, what you should tell your oncology team, when you should get medical help immediately, and any steps you can take to help ease the symptoms.