

Your child's medication: Binimetinib

Information for children, families and carers

We have given you this factsheet because your child has been prescribed a cancer treatment called binimetinib. This factsheet explains what binimetinib is, how your child should take the medication and what the possible side effects are. We hope it will help to answer some of the questions you may have. If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact us using the details at the end of this factsheet.

Please note that the information in this factsheet may differ from the manufacturer's leaflet that comes with the medication. This is because the manufacturer's leaflet is usually aimed at adults, not children. Please read this factsheet carefully and keep it somewhere safe so that you can refer back to it if necessary.

What is binimetinib?

Binimetinib, also known by the brand name Mektovi®, is an anti-cancer medication used to treat certain types of cancer.

How does binimetinib work?

Binimetinib is a type of cancer growth blocker called an MEK inhibitor. It works by targeting certain proteins (called MEK1 and MEK2) that help cancer cells grow. By blocking these proteins, binimetinib stops or slows down the growth of cancer cells.

Is binimetinib suitable for everyone?

Binimetinib is not suitable for everyone. It should only be taken when prescribed by a cancer doctor. Do not share your child's medication with anyone else.

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Binimetinib is not recommended during pregnancy. It may cause permanent harm or birth defects to an unborn baby.

Contact us for advice before your child takes this medication if your child:

- is pregnant
- thinks that they may be pregnant
- is planning to have a baby
- is breastfeeding or planning to breastfeed

Contact us for advice if anyone who may come into contact with this medication is pregnant.

How is binimetinib given?

Binimetinib comes as:

- tablets (15mg)
- an oral suspension (a liquid made up of the tablets mixed with water)

Binimetinib should be taken by mouth twice a day (approximately 12 hours apart), with or without food. Your child's doctor or nurse will confirm when and how your child should take this medication.

Binimetinib tablets and oral suspension should **not** be handled by anyone who is pregnant.

Tablets

Binimetinib tablets should be swallowed whole with a drink of water.

Your child may find swallowing the tablets easier if they:

- rest the tablet at the back of their tongue and then swallow some water.
- look down while swallowing the tablet.

Oral suspension

If your child is unable to swallow tablets, you can make an oral suspension using the tablets instead. We have included instructions on how to make the oral suspension at home below.

Equipment you will need:

- Binimetinib tablets
- Disposable gloves (you can get these from Piam Brown ward)
- A medicine cup
- 150ml brown glass bottle with a child-resistant lid
- Freshly boiled and cooled water
- 2 x 30ml oral syringes
- ORA-Sweet® (a flavoured syrup)
- Pre-printed medication labels

The preparation of the oral suspension should be done on a clean, clear work surface in a quiet room with the door closed to avoid distractions.

How to prepare the oral suspension:

1. Put on a pair of disposable gloves.
2. Pop out 4 x 15mg binimatinib tablets into a medicine cup and then transfer them to the glass bottle.
3. Using one of the 30ml syringes, draw up 15ml of freshly boiled and cooled water and transfer this to the bottle containing the tablets.
4. Place the child-resistant lid on the bottle, making sure it's screwed on securely.
5. Let the bottle rest for 10 minutes.
6. Shake the bottle for one to three minutes until the tablets have fully broken down. Then remove the lid from the bottle.
7. Measure 45ml of ORA-Sweet® using the other 30ml syringe (you will need to measure up 30ml and then a further 15ml) and transfer this into the bottle containing the tablets and water.
8. Place the child-resistant lid back on the bottle, making sure it's screwed on securely.
9. Shake the bottle for one to three minutes.
10. Check that the oral suspension looks evenly mixed.
11. Remove the gloves and wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.
12. This oral suspension will only last seven days from the date it was prepared. Work out seven days from the day you prepared the oral suspension and write this expiry date on the pre-printed label and stick this on the bottle.
13. This oral suspension can be stored at room temperature for up to seven days.
14. You must return any remaining tablets or oral suspension to the inpatient or outpatient pharmacy at the hospital to dispose of. **Do not flush or throw them away.**

Important to note

- You should handle binimatinib tablets with care and avoid touching them. If you prefer, you can wear a pair of household rubber gloves to protect yourself. **Do not use these gloves for any other purpose.** Always wash your hands after handling the medication.
- If the oral suspension accidentally gets into your or your child's eyes, wash out the affected eye(s) with plenty of clean, running water for 10 minutes and contact Piam Brown ward for advice using the details at the end of this factsheet.
- Any waste (for example, nappies and wipes) containing your child's bodily fluids (such as vomit, urine or poo) while they are taking binimatinib should be placed inside a separate rubbish bag and disposed of along with your normal household waste.
- If you accidentally spill the oral suspension, wash the area thoroughly with plenty of water.

What dose should my child have?

Your child's doctor or nurse will prescribe the correct dose of binimatinib for your child. The dose will be shown on the medication label.

What if my child takes too much binimatinib?

It can be dangerous to take too much binimatinib.

If your child takes too much binimatinib, call NHS 111 for advice and have the medication or packaging to hand. In an emergency, take your child to your nearest emergency department. Make sure to take your child's medication container and packaging in with you, even if it is empty. This will help the healthcare professional caring for your child.

What if my child is sick (vomits) after taking a dose of binimatinib?

Do not repeat the dose. This is because it can be difficult to know how much was absorbed. Give your child their next dose at the usual time.

What if my child misses a dose of binimatinib?

If your child misses a dose of binimatinib, give them the missed dose as soon as you remember it. However, if the missed dose is more than six hours late, do not give them the missed dose. Give the next dose at the usual time. **Never give a double dose of binimatinib.**

What are the possible side effects?

As with all medications, binimatinib can cause some side effects. The most common side effects of binimatinib are:

- a reduced red blood cell count
- a tingling sensation in hands and feet
- diarrhoea
- vomiting (Your child's doctor may prescribe your child an anti-sickness medication to help with this side effect. If this is the case, give your child a dose of the anti-sickness medication 30 minutes before each dose of binimatinib.)
- constipation
- dry skin, rash and itching (To help with these side effects, your child should start a skin care routine as soon as they start taking binimatinib. We recommend that children use a bath emollient for washing as well as frequently applying moisturising emollients.)

For a full list of possible side effects, please see the manufacturer's leaflet that comes with your child's medication.

If your child experiences any of the side effects listed above, or you have concerns about your child, immediately call your child's doctor, nurse or pharmacist for advice using the telephone numbers on the contact sheet in your parent-held oncology record.

Outside of working hours, contact Piam Brown ward using the details at the end of this factsheet or call NHS 111 for advice.

In an emergency, take your child to your nearest emergency department or call 999.

How should I store binimatinib?

Keep your child's medication in a safe place where your child cannot see or reach it.

Binimatinib tablets should be kept in their original container in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight or heat.

Binimatinib oral suspension should be kept in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight or heat. The oral suspension has an expiry of seven days from the date it was prepared.

Will my child need to be monitored?

Your child will need to have regular blood tests while having binimatinib, so we can check their:

- full blood count
- liver function
- kidney function

We will also perform regular:

- blood pressure checks
- cardiac function tests (tests that check how well your child's heart is working)
- skin assessments
- eye and vision assessments

Can my child take other medications at the same time as binimatinib?

Check with your child's doctor before your child takes any new medication while they are taking binimatinib. Check with your pharmacist before your child takes any over-the-counter medication.

How should I dispose of any unused binimatinib?

If your child's doctor decides to stop treatment, you must return any remaining tablets to the inpatient or outpatient pharmacy at the hospital to dispose of. **Do not flush or throw them away.**

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.

Piam Brown day ward

Telephone: **023 8120 6895** (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)

Piam Brown ward

Telephone: **023 8120 4816** (24-hour line)

Email: [pbpatients@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:pbp@uhs.nhs.uk)

Useful links

www.macmillan.org.uk/cancer-information-and-support/treatments-and-drugs/encorafenib-and-binimatinib

www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/treatment/drugs/encorafenib-binimatinib

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For help preparing for your visit, arranging an interpreter or accessing the hospital, please visit www.uhs.nhs.uk/additionalsupport

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