

Breast oncology

Olaparib

*This leaflet is given in addition to your **consent form(s)** and **booklet**, 'Chemotherapy - a guide for patients and their carers'.*

Your treatment

Olaparib is an anti-cancer drug also known as a targeted or biological therapy. These drugs block the growth and spread of cancer by targeting and interfering with the processes in cells that cause the cancer to grow.

Olaparib tablets are taken every day and will be prescribed in 4 weekly cycles. Olaparib is available as 150mg and 100mg tablets. The dose will usually be made up of 2 tablets to be taken TWICE a day. You may be given tablets of different strengths to make up your prescribed dose. Always take them exactly as prescribed. This will be documented on the medication label. Olaparib should be taken with a glass of water and swallowed whole. If you vomit after taking a dose, do not repeat the dose. Take your next dose at your normal time.

If you are taking olaparib for early breast cancer the treatment will last for 1 year.

If you are taking olaparib for advanced breast cancer the treatment will continue until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity.

You will have routine blood tests while on treatment as advised by your medical team. The frequency of these blood tests may decrease once you are established on treatment. Occasionally we may not be able to go ahead with your treatment until your blood counts are back to a safe level. If this happens, your treatment may be delayed a week or dose reduced.

Some patients will be taking olaparib in addition to hormone (endocrine) therapy. Your clinical team will advise if this applies to you. You should continue taking your hormone (endocrine) therapy even if your olaparib is withheld.

Some medicines and herbal remedies may interact with olaparib. Please consult your doctor or pharmacist if you are starting any new medications. Avoid having grapefruit or grapefruit juice while taking olaparib.

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 (open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week).



Possible side effects

See the Cancer Research UK consent form. You should have been given a copy of this consent form before you started treatment but it can also be found by visiting www.cancerresearchuk.org and searching 'Consent forms for SACT (systemic anti-cancer therapy)'.

See 'Chemotherapy, a guide'. You should have been given a copy of this booklet. You can also see this on The Christie website, visit www.christie.nhs.uk.

Contacts

If you have any general questions or concerns about your treatment, please contact your consultant's secretary or your breast care nurse.

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
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