

Abiraterone (a bir at er one) (generic Zytiga) tables

Drug type- Abiraterone acetate is a type of hormone therapy that is classified as an “adrenal inhibitor”. Abiraterone is indicated for use in combination with prednisone for the treatment of men with metastatic castration resistant prostate cancer.

Before taking abiraterone:

Make sure you tell your doctor about any other medications you are taking including prescriptions, over the counter, vitamins, herbal remedies, etc.

Do not take an aspirin, products containing aspirin unless your doctor specifically permits this.

Abiraterone is currently not indicated for use in women. Abiraterone acetate should not be given to women who are pregnant or intend to become pregnant. Abiraterone acetate is a pregnancy category X meaning it may cause fetal harm when given to a pregnant woman. If a woman becomes pregnant while taking abiraterone the medication must be stopped immediately, and the woman give appropriate counseling.

How is Abiraterone Acetate given?

Abiraterone is a pill, taken by mouth, once daily.

It must be taken on an empty stomach (one hour before or two hours after a meal.)

It should be taken at approximately the same time each day.

Prednisone should be taken along with abiraterone acetate.

The amount of abiraterone acetate you receive depends on many factors. Your doctor will determine your dose and the schedule.

Side Effects to watch for while taking Abiraterone Acetate:

Most people will not experience all of the abiraterone side effects listed. Side effects are often predictable in terms of their onset, duration, and severity. They are almost always reversible and will go away after therapy is complete. There are many options to minimize or prevent the side effects.

The following side effects are common (occurring in greater than 30%) for patients taking abiraterone acetate:

Fluid Retention	Increased triglycerides	Increased liver enzymes (AST)
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These side effects are less common (occurring in 10-29%) for patients taking abiraterone acetate:

Joint swelling	Decrease levels of phosphorus in blood (hypophosphatemia)	
Muscle aches	Decreased levels of potassium in blood (hypokalemia)	
Hot Flashes	Diarrhea	Urinary tract infections
Cough	Discomfort	Peripheral Edema

Side effects that are very rare (occurring in less than 10% of patients) are not listed above. You should always inform your health care provider if you experience any unusual symptoms.

When to contact your physician or health care provider:

Contact your health care provider IMMEDIATELY, day or night, if you should experience any of the following symptoms:

Fever of 100.4 degrees F or 38 degrees C or higher	Difficulty breathing
Chest pain or Irregular heart beats	Inability to urinate for 8 or more hours

The following symptoms require medical attention but are not an emergency. Contact your healthcare provider with 24 hours of noticing any of the following:

Dizziness/ Light headedness	Diarrhea (4-6 episodes in 24 hours)	Unusual Bleeding
Significant headache	Black or tarry stools	Blood in stools
Extreme fatigue	Yellow coloring of skin or eyes	

Unusual elevation in blood pressure

General information about the safe and effective use of Abiraterone Acetate:

Abiraterone and prednisone are to be used together and neither medication should be interrupted or stopped unless your healthcare provider tells you to. Take the medications exactly as directed.

You will need to continue receiving your LHRG/GnRH agonists injections (i.e. Zoladex, Lupron, Trelstar, Orgovyx, etc.)

In general, drinking alcoholic beverages should be kept to a minimum or avoided completely.

Get plenty of rest, and maintain good nutrition.

You will need to monitor side effects and check your response to therapy, meaning periodic blood work to check blood count (CBC) as well as the function of other organs (such as your kidneys and liver).

Storage and handling:

Store abiraterone acetate at room temperature (68°F–77°F) in a dry location away from light.

Whenever possible, give abiraterone acetate to yourself and follow the steps below. If a family member, friend, or caregiver needs to give abiraterone acetate to you, they also need to follow these steps:

1. Wash hands with soap and water.
2. Put on gloves to avoid touching the medication. (Gloves are not necessary if you give the drug to yourself.)
3. Gently transfer the abiraterone acetate from its package to a small medicine or other disposable cup.
4. Administer the medicine immediately by mouth with water.
5. Remove gloves and do not use them for anything else.
6. Throw gloves and medicine cup in household trash.
7. Wash hands with soap and water.

If a daily pill box or pill reminder will be used, contact your care team before using:

- The person filling the box or reminder should wear gloves (gloves are not necessary if you are filling the box or reminder).
- When empty, the box or reminder should be washed with soap and water before refilling. Be sure to wash hands with soap and water after the task is complete, whether or not gloves are worn.

If you are traveling, put your abiraterone acetate's packaging in a sealed plastic bag. Ask your pharmacist if any additional travel precautions are needed.

If you have any unused abiraterone acetate, do not throw it in the trash and do not flush it down the sink or toilet.

Dispose of unused medicines through community take-back disposal programs when available. If no community take-back disposal program is available go to www.fda.gov/drugdisposal for information on how to dispose of medication the right way.

If you are unhappy with this service and would like to place a complaint with our management team please contact us at (651) 999-6800 or the Minnesota Secretary of Health and Human Services or Accreditation Commission for Health Care at (855) 937-2242.

For questions, concerns or refills please call 651-999-7090.

Minnesota Urology's In- Office Dispensary