French Hospital Medical Center.
A Dignity Health Member

If you have any questions, please consult your physician or call Hearst Cancer Resource Center at 805.542.6234. For emergency, call 911.

PATIENT EDUCATION

Gleevec (Imatinib Mesylate)

SIDE EFFECTS

It is important for the patient to follow all prescription instructions carefully. You may experience some, all, or none of the following:

- **Lowered Blood Counts** – This drug causes a temporary decrease in your blood counts. During this time you are more susceptible to colds, infections, and bleeding. Blood tests will be done periodically to monitor your blood counts.
- **Nausea/Vomiting** – Nausea and vomiting may occur if high doses are taken.. You need to take some medication for this or take the capsules a few at a time.
- **Decreased Appetite**
- **Fluid Retention** – May occur. Observe for increasing weight, swelling of hands, feet, ankles, or hands.

PATIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Notify your doctor or oncology nurse immediately if you experience:

- Signs of Infection: Chills or fever above 100.5°F, new or significant cough or shortness of breath, sudden weakness or fatigue, pain or burning with urination, a cold, a sore that looks infected, white patches in your mouth or on your tongue, or any other signs of infection.
- Unexpected, rapid weight gain
- Swelling of legs, feet, ankles, or hands
- Signs of Bleeding: Nosebleeds that will not stop with pressure; blood in urine or stool; bleeding gums, unusual bruising; red or purple spots on your body
- Any difficulty breathing
- If you forget to take a dose

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- **Birth Control Measures** – are necessary during and for 4 months after treatment due to potential harm to sperm/egg health.
- **Before any dental procedure, be sure and tell your dentist you are taking this medication.**
- **Take medication with food or with a large glass of water**