

## For the Patient: **GILEN**

Other Names: First Line Therapy of Advanced Hepatocellular Carcinoma Using Lenvatinib (LENVIMA®)

**GI** = GastroIntestinal  
**LEN** = LENVatinib

### **ABOUT THIS MEDICATION**

#### **What are these drugs used for?**

- Lenvatinib (len VA ti nib) is an oral drug treatment given as therapy to treat a type of advanced liver cancer (hepatocellular carcinoma).

#### **How do these drugs work?**

- Lenvatinib blocks the proteins that make new blood vessels in cancer cells. This slows or prevents the growth of cancer cells.

### **INTENDED BENEFITS**

- Lenvatinib is given to destroy and/or limit the growth of cancer cells.
- This treatment may improve your current symptoms, and delay or prevent the onset of new symptoms.

### **TREATMENT SUMMARY**

#### **How is this drug given?**

- Lenvatinib is a capsule swallowed whole once a day. Patients may be instructed to take up to 3 capsules at once.

#### **What will happen when I get my drugs?**

- A blood test is done on or before each treatment cycle.
- Your oncologist will assess whether you are to proceed with treatment, then write a prescription for the pharmacy.
- The dose and timing of your chemotherapy may change based on your blood counts and / or other side effects.

#### **Are there any risks?**

- You may develop worsening of your blood pressure. This may occur about two weeks into starting lenvatinib. Take your blood pressure at least weekly for the first two months of treatment. Your doctor may prescribe additional medicine to treat your high blood pressure.
- You may develop an increase in protein in your urine. This is tested regularly. If you develop protein in your urine, your doctor may decrease your dose of lenvatinib or stop your treatment.

- Tell your healthcare professional about all the medicines you take, including any drugs, vitamins, minerals, natural supplements or alternative medicines. There are many interactions that may occur that may not be aware of.
- Tell your oncologist about any prior surgeries or radiotherapy treatment within the last 6 months. There is a risk of bleeding or developing a tear in the stomach or intestines.
- Avoid becoming pregnant or breastfeeding while taking lenvatinib.

**What are the side effects of Lenvatinib, how often do they occur and how do I manage them?**

Unexpected and unlikely side effects can occur with any drug treatment. The ones listed below are particularly important for you to be aware of as they are directly related to the common actions of the drug in your treatment plan.

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS	How common is it?	MANAGEMENT
<b>Signs of a blood clot</b> including tenderness or hardness over a vein, calf tenderness, warmth, or swelling, sudden onset of chest pain or shortness of breath.	rare	Call your oncologist and go to emergency.
Signs of <b>jaundice</b> (eye or skin yellowing), <b>pain on right side of stomach area, nausea, loss of appetite.</b>	very rare	Your dose may be adjusted.
<b>Bleeding problems</b> such as nosebleeds, bruising on your skin, black, tarry or bloody stools.	uncommon	Call your oncologist and go to emergency.
<b>Signs of kidney problems</b> such as lower back or side pain, swelling of feet or lower legs.	rare	Your dose may be adjusted.
<b>Irregular heartbeats</b> may occur. Symptoms include feeling faint, lightheaded, dizzy or fast heartbeat.	rare	Call your oncologist and go to emergency.

OTHER SIDE EFFECTS	How common is it?	MANAGEMENT
<b>High blood pressure</b> may occur.	common	Your blood pressure may be checked during your visits to your doctor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may be asked to check your blood pressure frequently between visits.</li> <li>• Your doctor may give you medication if your blood pressure is high.</li> <li>• Tell your doctor if you are already on blood pressure medication. Your doctor may have to adjust your dose.</li> </ul>
<b>Nausea</b> and <b>vomiting</b> may occur after your treatment.	common	You may be given a prescription for antinausea drug(s) to take at home. <b>It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred</b> , so follow directions closely. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids.</li> <li>• Eat and drink often in small amounts.</li> <li>• Try the ideas in <i>Practical Tips to Manage Nausea</i>.*</li> </ul>
<b>Diarrhea</b> may occur.	very common	If diarrhea is a problem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids.</li> <li>• Eat and drink often in small amounts.</li> <li>• Avoid high fibre foods as outlined in <i>Food Ideas to Help Manage Diarrhea</i>.*</li> <li>• Call your doctor. Another medication may be recommended to help control your diarrhea or you may be asked to temporarily stop lenvatinib.</li> </ul>
<b>Loss of appetite</b> and <b>weight loss</b> may occur.	common	Try the ideas in <i>Food Ideas to Help with Decreased Appetite</i> .*

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PATIENT**

### **How should I take this drug?**

Lenvatinib capsules are swallowed whole with a glass of water. It is taken with or without food, about the same time every day. Do not open, chew, crush, or split the capsules. Your daily dose may be more than one capsule. The pharmacy provides daily doses on cards to help you take the right dose.

### **What if I miss a dose?**

If you miss a dose of lenvatinib, take it as soon as you can if it is within 12 hours of the missed dose. If it is more than 12 hours since your missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times.

### **How should I store this drug?**

Store lenvatinib capsules out of the reach of children, at room temperature, away from heat, light, and moisture. Keep capsules in original blister card packaging until needed.

### **What other drugs can interact with Lenvatinib?**

Prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, minerals, and natural health supplements may interact with lenvatinib and cause unwanted side effects. The pharmacist will check for interactions prior to you starting lenvatinib. Inform your doctor and pharmacist when you start a new medicine.

## **THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS VERY IMPORTANT**

### **STOP TAKING LENVATINIB AND SEE YOUR DOCTOR OR GET EMERGENCY HELP IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE:**

- Signs of a **stroke** such as sudden onset of severe headache, eyesight changes, slurred speech, loss of coordination, weakness, or numbness in face, arm or leg.
- Signs of a **blood clot** such as tenderness or hardness over a vein, calf tenderness, warmth, or swelling, sudden onset of chest pain or shortness of breath.
- Signs of an **allergic reaction** (rare) soon after a treatment including dizziness, fast heartbeat, face swelling, or breathing problems.
- Signs of **heart problems** such as chest pain, headache that does not resolve, visual changes, nausea, vomiting, unusually high blood pressure.
- Worsening **abdominal pain, diarrhea, or blood or mucus in stools.**
- Any **bleeding** such as black, tarry, or bloody stools, vomiting blood, or nosebleeds that do not resolve.
- **Seizures, or loss of consciousness** with or without **confusion, headache, or changes in eye sight.**

**SEE YOUR DOCTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (DURING OFFICE HOURS) IF YOU HAVE:**

- Extreme tiredness, weight change, headache
- Severe nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach upset
- Changes in your vision, confusion, or problems thinking
- Changes in your the colour of your urine or stool

**CHECK WITH YOUR DOCTOR IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONTINUE OR BOTHER YOU:**

- Nausea, diarrhea, stomach pain
- Headache not controlled with acetaminophen
- Skin rash, redness, itching, or peeling of skin on hands and feet
- Decreased appetite

**If you experience symptoms or changes in your body that have not been described above but worry you, or if any symptoms are severe, contact:**

\_\_\_\_\_ at telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_