

## Breast Oncology

# Palbociclib

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

### Your treatment

**Palbociclib** is an anti-cancer drug also known as a targeted or biological therapy. This drug blocks the growth and spread of cancer by targeting and interfering with the processes in cells that cause the cancer to grow.

Palbociclib tablets are taken ONCE each day for 21 days followed by a 7 day rest period. This is called one cycle of treatment and will be repeated every 28 days until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity. Take with a glass of water and swallow whole.

If you vomit after taking a dose, do not repeat the dose. Take your next dose at your normal time.

Palbociclib for the treatment of breast cancer should be taken in combination with hormone therapy.

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.

You should continue taking your hormone (endocrine) therapy even if your palbociclib is withheld.

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

**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](http://www.cancerresearchuk.org) and searching 'Consent forms for SACT (Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy)'.

See 'Chemotherapy - a guide for patients and their carers'.

You should have been given a copy of this booklet. You can also see this on The Christie website, visit [www.christie.nhs.uk](http://www.christie.nhs.uk).

## Contacts

If you have any general questions or concerns about your treatment, please ring the service under which you are being treated.

Advanced breast cancer treatment (MBC):

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](mailto: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.



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urgent support and specialist advice  
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