

IRESSA[®]

gefitinib tablets

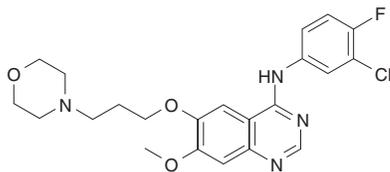
250 mg

For Oncology Use Only

DESCRIPTION

IRESSA[®] (gefitinib tablets) contain 250 mg of gefitinib and are available as brown film-coated tablets for daily oral administration.

Gefitinib is an anilinoquinazoline with the chemical name 4-Quinazolinamine, *N*-(3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-7-methoxy-6-[3-(4-morpholin) propoxy] and the following structural formula:



It has the molecular formula $C_{22}H_{24}ClF_2N_4O_3$, a relative molecular mass of 446.9 and is a white-colored powder. Gefitinib is a free base. The molecule has pK_a s of 5.4 and 7.2 and therefore ionizes progressively in solution as the pH falls. Gefitinib can be defined as sparingly soluble at pH 1, but is practically insoluble above pH 7, with the solubility dropping sharply between pH 4 and pH 6. In non-aqueous solvents, gefitinib is freely soluble in glacial acetic acid and dimethylsulphoxide, soluble in pyridine, sparingly soluble in tetrahydrofuran, and slightly soluble in methanol, ethanol (99.5%), ethyl acetate, propan-2-ol and acetonitrile.

The inactive ingredients of IRESSA tablets are: **Tablet core:** Lactose monohydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, croscarmellose sodium, povidone, sodium lauryl sulfate and magnesium stearate. **Coating:** Hypromellose, polyethylene glycol 300, titanium dioxide, red ferric oxide and yellow ferric oxide.

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Mechanism of Action

The mechanism of the clinical antitumor action of gefitinib is not fully characterized. Gefitinib inhibits the intracellular phosphorylation of numerous tyrosine kinases associated with transmembrane cell surface receptors, including the tyrosine kinases associated with the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR-TK). EGFR is expressed on the cell surface of many normal cells and cancer cells. No clinical studies have been performed that demonstrate a correlation between EGFR receptor expression and response to gefitinib.

Pharmacokinetics

Gefitinib is absorbed slowly after oral administration with mean bioavailability of 60%. Elimination is by metabolism (primarily CYP3A4) and excretion in feces. The elimination half-life is about 48 hours. Daily oral administration of gefitinib to cancer patients resulted in a 2-fold accumulation compared to single dose administration. Steady state plasma concentrations are achieved within 10 days.

Absorption and Distribution

Gefitinib is slowly absorbed, with peak plasma levels occurring 3-7 hours after dosing and mean oral bioavailability of 60%. Bioavailability is not significantly altered by food. Gefitinib is extensively distributed throughout the body with a mean steady state volume of distribution of 1400 L following intravenous administration. *In vitro* binding of gefitinib to human plasma proteins (serum albumin and α 1-acid glycoprotein) is 90% and is independent of drug concentrations.

Metabolism and Elimination

Gefitinib undergoes extensive hepatic metabolism in humans, predominantly by CYP3A4. Three sites of biotransformation have been identified: metabolism of the *N*-propoxymorpholino-group, demethylation of the methoxy-substituent on the quinazoline, and oxidative defluorination of the halogenated phenyl group.

Five metabolites were identified in human plasma. Only *O*-desmethyl gefitinib has exposure comparable to gefitinib. Although this metabolite has similar EGFR-TK activity to gefitinib in the isolated enzyme assay, it had only 1/14 of the potency of gefitinib in one of the cell-based assays.

Gefitinib is cleared primarily by the liver, with total plasma clearance and elimination half-life values of 595 mL/min and 48 hours, respectively, after intravenous administration. Excretion is predominantly via the feces (86%), with renal elimination of drug and metabolites accounting for less than 4% of the administered dose.

Special Populations

In population based data analyses, no relationships were identified between predicted steady state trough concentration and patient age, body weight, gender, ethnicity or creatinine clearance.

Pediatric: There are no pharmacokinetic data in pediatric patients.

Hepatic Impairment

The influence of hepatic metastases with elevation of serum aspartate aminotransferase (AST/SGOT), alkaline phosphatase, and bilirubin has been evaluated in

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patients with normal (14 patients), moderately elevated (13 patients) and severely elevated (4 patients) levels of one or more of these biochemical parameters. Patients with moderately and severely elevated biochemical liver abnormalities had gefitinib pharmacokinetics similar to individuals without liver abnormalities (see **PRECAUTIONS** section).

Renal Impairment

No clinical studies were conducted with IRESSA in patients with severely compromised renal function (see **PRECAUTIONS** section). Gefitinib and its metabolites are not significantly excreted via the kidney (<4%).

Drug-Drug Interactions

In human liver microsome studies, gefitinib had no inhibitory effect on CYP1A2, CYP2C9, and CYP3A4 activities at concentrations ranging from 2-5000 ng/mL. At the highest concentration studied (5000 ng/mL), gefitinib inhibited CYP2C19 by 24% and CYP2D6 by 43%. Exposure to metoprolol, a substrate of CYP2D6, was increased by 30% when it was given in combination with gefitinib (500 mg daily for 28 days) in patients with solid tumors.

Rifampicin, an inducer of CYP3A4, reduced mean AUC of gefitinib by 85% in healthy male volunteers (see **PRECAUTIONS-Drug Interactions** and **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION-Dosage Adjustment** sections).

Concomitant administration of itraconazole (200 mg QD for 12 days), an inhibitor of CYP3A4, with gefitinib (250 mg single dose) to healthy male volunteers, increased mean gefitinib AUC by 88% (see **PRECAUTIONS-Drug Interactions** section).

Co-administration of high doses of ranitidine with sodium bicarbonate (to maintain the gastric pH above pH 5.0) reduced mean gefitinib AUC by 44% (see **PRECAUTIONS-Drug Interactions** section).

International Normalized Ratio (INR) elevations and/or bleeding events have been reported in some patients taking warfarin while on IRESSA therapy. Patients taking warfarin should be monitored regularly for changes in prothrombin time or INR (see **PRECAUTIONS-Drug Interactions** and **ADVERSE REACTIONS** sections).

Clinical Studies

Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC): Refractory Disease Tumor Response Study – A multicenter clinical trial in the United States evaluated the tumor response rate of IRESSA 250 and 500 mg/day in patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer whose disease had progressed after at least two prior chemotherapy regimens including a platinum drug and docetaxel. IRESSA was taken once daily at approximately the same time each day.

Two hundred and sixteen patients received IRESSA, 102 (47%) and 114 (53%) receiving 250 mg and 500 mg daily doses, respectively. Study patient demographics and disease characteristics are summarized in Table 1. Forty-one percent of the patients had received two prior treatment regimens, 33% three prior treatment regimens, and 25% four or more prior treatment regimens. Effectiveness of IRESSA as third line therapy was determined in the 142 evaluable patients with documented disease progression on platinum and docetaxel therapies or who had had unacceptable toxicity on these agents.

Table 1: Demographic and Disease Characteristics

Characteristic	IRESSA Dose	
	250 mg/day N=66 (%)	500 mg/day N=76 (%)
Age Group		
18-64 years	43 (65)	43 (57)
64-74 years	19 (29)	30 (39)
75 years and above	4 (6)	3 (4)
Sex		
Male	38 (58)	41 (54)
Female	28 (42)	35 (46)
Race		
White	61 (92)	68 (89)
Black	1 (2)	2 (3)
Asian/Oriental	1 (2)	2 (3)
Hispanic	0 (0)	3 (4)
Other	3 (5)	1 (1)
Smoking History		
Yes (Previous or current smoker)	45 (68)	62 (82)
No (Never smoked)	21 (32)	14 (18)
Baseline WHO Performance Status		
0	14 (21)	9 (12)
1	36 (55)	53 (70)
2	15 (23)	14 (18)
Not Recorded	1 (2)	0 (0)
Tumor Histology		
Squamous	9 (14)	11 (14)
Adenocarcinoma	47 (71)	50 (66)
Undifferentiated	6 (9)	4 (5)
Large Cell	1 (2)	2 (3)
Squamous and Adenocarcinoma	3 (5)	7 (9)
Not Recorded	0 (0)	2 (3)
Current Disease Status		
Locally Advanced	11 (17)	5 (7)
Metastatic	55 (83)	71 (93)

Table 2 shows tumor response rates and response duration. The overall response rate for the 250 and 500 mg doses combined was 10.6% (95% CI: 6%, 16.8%). Response rates appeared to be highly variable in subgroups of the treated population: 5.1% (4/79) in males, 17.5% (11/63) in females, 4.6% (5/108) in previous or current smokers, 29.4% (10/34) in nonsmokers, 12.4% (12/97) with adenocarcinoma histology, and 6.7% (3/45) with other NSCLC histologies. Similar differences in response were seen in a multinational study in patients who had received 1 or 2 prior chemotherapy regimens, at least 1 of which was platinum-based. In responders, the median time from diagnosis to study randomization was 16.7 months (range 8 to 34 months).

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Table 2 - Efficacy Results

	Efficacy Population		
	250 mg (N=66)	500 mg (N=76)	Combined (N=142)
Objective Tumor Response Rate (%)	13.6	7.9	10.6
95% CI (%)	6.4 - 24.3	3.0 - 16.4	6.0 - 16.8
Median Duration of Objective Response (months)	8.9	4.5	7.0
Range (months)	4.6 - 18.6+	4.4 - 7.6	4.4 - 18.6+

+ = data are ongoing

Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC): Refractory Disease Survival Study— A double-blind, placebo-controlled parallel-group trial randomized 1692 patients with advanced NSCLC to receive either IRESSA 250 mg daily plus Best Supportive Care or placebo plus Best Supportive Care. Patients had received 1 or 2 prior chemotherapy regimens and had progressed while receiving or within 90 days of the last dose of chemotherapy or were intolerant to the most recent prior chemotherapy regimen. The two treatment arms were well-balanced for demographic and disease-related patient characteristics. The primary endpoint of the study was survival. IRESSA did not significantly prolong survival (stratified log rank HR 0.89, P=0.11, Median 5.6 vs 5.1 months for IRESSA and placebo, respectively).

Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC): Studies of First-line Treatment in Combination with Chemotherapy— Two large trials were conducted in chemotherapy-naïve patients with stage III and IV non-small cell lung cancer. Two thousand one hundred thirty patients were randomized to receive IRESSA 250 mg daily, IRESSA 500 mg daily, or placebo in combination with platinum-based chemotherapy regimens. The chemotherapies given in these first-line trials were gemcitabine and cis-platinum (N=1093) or carboplatin and paclitaxel (N=1037). The addition of IRESSA did not demonstrate any increase, or trend toward such an increase, in tumor response rates, time to progression, or overall survival.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

IRESSA is indicated as monotherapy for the continued treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer after failure of both platinum-based and docetaxel chemotherapies who are benefiting or have benefited from IRESSA.

In light of positive survival data with other agents including another oral EGFR inhibitor, physicians should use other treatment options in advanced non-small cell lung cancer patient populations who have received one or two prior chemotherapy regimens and are refractory or intolerant to their most recent regimen.

The effectiveness of IRESSA was initially based on objective response rates (see **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY-Clinical Studies** section). Subsequent studies intended to demonstrate an increase in survival have been unsuccessful. Specifically, results from a large placebo-controlled randomized trial in patients with advanced NSCLC who progressed while receiving or within 90 days of the last dose of chemotherapy or were intolerant to the most recent prior chemotherapy regimen, did not show an improvement in survival (see **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY-Clinical Studies** section).

Results from two large, controlled, randomized trials in first-line treatment of non-small cell lung cancer showed no benefit from adding IRESSA to doublet, platinum-based chemotherapy.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

IRESSA is contraindicated in patients with severe hypersensitivity to gefitinib or to any other component of IRESSA.

WARNINGS

Pulmonary Toxicity

Cases of interstitial lung disease (ILD) have been observed in patients receiving IRESSA at an overall incidence of about 1%. Approximately 1/3 of the cases have been fatal. The reported incidence of ILD was about 2% in the Japanese post-marketing experience, about 0.3% in approximately 23,000 patients treated with IRESSA in a US expanded access program and about 1% in the studies of first-line use in NSCLC (but with similar rates in both treatment and placebo groups). Reports have described the adverse event as interstitial pneumonia, pneumonitis and alveolitis. Patients often present with the acute onset of dyspnea, sometimes associated with cough or low-grade fever, often becoming severe within a short time and requiring hospitalization. ILD has occurred in patients who have received prior radiation therapy (31% of reported cases), prior chemotherapy (57% of reported patients), and no previous therapy (12% of reported cases). Patients with concurrent idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis whose condition worsens while receiving IRESSA have been observed to have an increased mortality compared to those without concurrent idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.

In the event of acute onset or worsening of pulmonary symptoms (dyspnea, cough, fever), IRESSA therapy should be interrupted and a prompt investigation of these symptoms should occur. If interstitial lung disease is confirmed, IRESSA should be discontinued and the patient treated appropriately (see **PRECAUTIONS-Information for Patients, ADVERSE REACTIONS** and **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION-Dosage Adjustment** sections).

Pregnancy Category D

IRESSA may cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman. A single dose study in rats showed that gefitinib crosses the placenta after an oral dose of 5 mg/kg (30 mg/m², about 1/5 the recommended human dose on a mg/m² basis). When pregnant rats were treated with 5 mg/kg from the beginning of organogenesis to the end of weaning gave birth, there was a reduction in the number of offspring born alive. This effect was more severe at 20 mg/kg and was accompanied by high neonatal mortality soon after parturition. In this study a dose of 1 mg/kg caused no adverse effects.

In rabbits, a dose of 20 mg/kg/day (240 mg/m², about twice the recommended dose in humans on a mg/m² basis) caused reduced fetal weight.

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women using IRESSA. If IRESSA is used during pregnancy or if the patient becomes pregnant while receiving this drug, she should be apprised of the potential hazard to the fetus or potential risk for loss of the pregnancy.

PRECAUTIONS**Hepatotoxicity**

Asymptomatic increases in liver transaminases have been observed in IRESSA-treated patients; therefore, periodic liver function (transaminases, bilirubin, and alkaline phosphatase) testing should be considered. Discontinuation of IRESSA should be considered if changes are severe.

Patients with Hepatic Impairment

In vitro and *in vivo* evidence suggest that gefinitib is cleared primarily by the liver. Therefore, gefinitib exposure may be increased in patients with hepatic dysfunction. In patients with liver metastases and moderately to severely elevated biochemical liver abnormalities, however, gefinitib pharmacokinetics were similar to the pharmacokinetics of individuals without liver abnormalities (see **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY-Pharmacokinetics-Special Populations** section). The influence of non-cancer related hepatic impairment on the pharmacokinetics of gefinitib has not been evaluated.

Information for Patients

Patients should be advised to seek medical advice promptly if they develop 1) severe or persistent diarrhea, nausea, anorexia, or vomiting, as these have sometimes been associated with dehydration; 2) an onset or worsening of pulmonary symptoms, ie, shortness of breath or cough; 3) an eye irritation; or 4) any other new symptom (see **WARNINGS-Pulmonary Toxicity, ADVERSE REACTIONS** and **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION-Dosage Adjustment** sections).

Women of childbearing potential must be advised to avoid becoming pregnant (see **WARNINGS-Pregnancy Category D**).

Drug Interactions

Substances that are inducers of CYP3A4 activity increase the metabolism of gefinitib and decrease its plasma concentrations. In patients receiving a potent CYP3A4 inducer such as rifampicin or phenytoin, a dose increase to 500 mg daily should be considered in the absence of severe adverse drug reaction, and clinical response and adverse events should be carefully monitored (see **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY-Pharmacokinetics-Drug-Drug Interactions** and **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION-Dosage Adjustment** sections).

International Normalized Ratio (INR) elevations and/or bleeding events have been reported in some patients taking warfarin while on IRESSA therapy. Patients taking warfarin should be monitored regularly for changes in prothrombin time or INR (see **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY-Pharmacokinetics-Drug-Drug Interactions** and **ADVERSE REACTIONS** sections).

Substances that are potent inhibitors of CYP3A4 activity (eg, ketoconazole and itraconazole) decrease gefinitib metabolism and increase gefinitib plasma concentrations. This increase may be clinically relevant as adverse experiences are related to dose and exposure; therefore, caution should be used when administering CYP3A4 inhibitors with IRESSA (see **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY-Pharmacokinetics-Drug-Drug Interactions** and **ADVERSE REACTIONS** sections).

Drugs that cause significant sustained elevation in gastric pH (histamine H₂-receptor antagonists such as ranitidine or cimetidine) may reduce plasma concentrations of IRESSA and therefore potentially may reduce efficacy (see **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY-Drug-Drug Interactions** section).

Phase II clinical trial data, where IRESSA and vinorelbine have been used concomitantly, indicate that IRESSA may exacerbate the neutropenic effect of vinorelbine.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

Gefinitib has been tested for genotoxicity in a series of *in vitro* (bacterial mutation, mouse lymphoma, and human lymphocyte) assays and an *in vivo* rat micronucleus test. Under the conditions of these assays, gefinitib did not cause genetic damage.

Carcinogenicity studies have not been conducted with gefinitib.

Pregnancy

Pregnancy Category D (see **WARNINGS** and **PRECAUTIONS-Information for Patients** sections).

Nursing Mothers

It is not known whether IRESSA is excreted in human milk. Following oral administration of carbon-14 labeled gefinitib to rats 14 days postpartum, concentrations of radioactivity in milk were higher than in blood. Levels of gefinitib and its metabolites were 11-to-19-fold higher in milk than in blood, after oral exposure of lactating rats to a dose of 5 mg/kg. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk and because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants, women should be advised against breast-feeding while receiving IRESSA therapy.

Pediatric Use

IRESSA is not indicated for use in pediatric patients, as safety and effectiveness have not been established. In clinical trials of IRESSA alone or with radiation in pediatric patients with primary Central Nervous System (CNS) tumors, cases of CNS hemorrhage and death have been reported. There are insufficient data in pediatric patients to establish a causal relationship. There is no evidence to suggest increased risk of cerebral hemorrhage in adult patients with NSCLC receiving IRESSA.

Geriatric Use

Of the total number of patients participating in trials of second- and third-line IRESSA treatment of NSCLC, 65% were aged 64 years or less, 30.5% were aged 65 to 74 years, and 5% of patients were aged 75 years or older. No differences in safety or efficacy were observed between younger and older patients.

Patients with Severe Renal Impairment

The effect of severe renal impairment on the pharmacokinetics of gefinitib is not known. Patients with severe renal impairment should be treated with caution when given IRESSA.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The safety database includes 941 patients from clinical trials and approximately 23,000 patients in the Expanded Access Program.

Table 3 includes drug-related adverse events with an incidence of ≥5% for the 216 patients who received either 250 mg or 500 mg of IRESSA monotherapy for treatment of NSCLC. The most common adverse events reported at the recommended 250 mg daily dose were diarrhea, rash, acne, dry skin, nausea, and vomiting (see **PRECAUTIONS-Information for Patients** and **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION-Dosage Adjustment** sections). The 500 mg dose showed a higher rate for most of these adverse events.

Table 4 provides drug-related adverse events with an incidence of ≥5% by CTC grade for the patients who received the 250 mg/day dose of IRESSA monotherapy for treatment of NSCLC. Only 2% of patients stopped therapy due to an adverse drug reaction (ADR). The onset of these ADRs occurred within the first month of therapy.

Table 3 - Drug-Related Adverse Events With an Incidence of ≥5% in either 250 mg or 500 mg Dose Group

Drug-related adverse event ^a	Number (%) of Patients	
	250 mg/day (N=102) %	500 mg/day (N=114) %
Diarrhea	49 (48)	76 (67)
Rash	44 (43)	61 (54)
Acne	25 (25)	37 (33)
Dry skin	13 (13)	30 (26)
Nausea	13 (13)	20 (18)
Vomiting	12 (12)	10 (9)
Pruritus	8 (8)	10 (9)
Anorexia	7 (7)	11 (10)
Asthenia	6 (6)	5 (4)
Weight loss	3 (3)	6 (5)

^a A patient may have had more than 1 drug-related adverse event.

Table 4 - Drug Related Adverse Events ≥5% at 250 mg dose by Worst CTC Grade (n=102)

Adverse Event	% of Patients				
	All Grades	CTC Grade 1	CTC Grade 2	CTC Grade 3	CTC Grade 4
Diarrhea	48	41	6	1	0
Rash	43	39	4	0	0
Acne	25	19	6	0	0
Dry Skin	13	12	1	0	0
Nausea	13	7	5	1	0
Vomiting	12	9	2	1	0
Pruritus	8	7	1	0	0
Anorexia	7	3	4	0	0
Asthenia	6	2	2	1	1

Other adverse events reported at an incidence of <5% in patients who received either 250 mg or 500 mg as monotherapy for treatment of NSCLC (along with their frequency at the 250 mg recommended dose) include the following: peripheral edema (2%), amblyopia (2%), dyspnea (2%), conjunctivitis (1%), vesiculobullous rash (1%), and mouth ulceration (1%).

Interstitial Lung Disease

Cases of interstitial lung disease (ILD) have been observed in patients receiving IRESSA at an overall incidence of about 1%. Approximately 1/3 of the cases have been fatal. The reported incidence of ILD was about 2% in the Japanese post-marketing experience, about 0.3% in approximately 23,000 patients treated with IRESSA in a US expanded access program and about 1% in the studies of first-line use in NSCLC (but with similar rates in both treatment and placebo groups). Reports have described the adverse event as interstitial pneumonia, pneumonitis and alveolitis. Patients often present with the acute onset of dyspnea, sometimes associated with cough or low-grade fever, often becoming severe within a short time and requiring hospitalization. ILD has occurred in patients who have received prior radiation therapy (31% of reported cases), prior chemotherapy (57% of reported patients), and no previous therapy (12% of reported cases). Patients with concurrent idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis whose condition worsens while receiving IRESSA have been observed to have an increased mortality compared to those without concurrent idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.

In the event of acute onset or worsening of pulmonary symptoms (dyspnea, cough, fever), IRESSA therapy should be interrupted and a prompt investigation of these symptoms should occur. If interstitial lung disease is confirmed, IRESSA should be discontinued and the patient treated appropriately (see **WARNINGS-Pulmonary Toxicity, PRECAUTIONS-Information for Patients** and **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION-Dosage Adjustment** sections).

In patients receiving IRESSA therapy, there were reports of eye pain and corneal erosion/ulcer, sometimes in association with aberrant eyelash growth (see **PRECAUTIONS-Information for Patients** section). Hemorrhage, such as epistaxis and hematuria have been reported in patients receiving IRESSA. There were also rare reports of pancreatitis and very rare reports of corneal membrane sloughing, ocular ischemia/hemorrhage, toxic epidermal necrolysis, erythema multiforme, and allergic

reactions, including angioedema and urticaria.

International Normalized Ratio (INR) elevations and/or bleeding events have been reported in some patients taking warfarin while on IRESSA therapy. Patients taking warfarin should be monitored regularly for changes in prothrombin time or INR (see **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY-Drug-Drug Interactions** and **PRECAUTIONS-Drug Interactions** sections).

Data from non-clinical (*in vitro* and *in vivo*) studies indicate that gefinitib has the potential to inhibit the cardiac action potential repolarization process (eg, QT interval). The clinical relevance of these findings is unknown.

OVERDOSAGE

The acute toxicity of gefinitib up to 500 mg in clinical studies has been low. In non-clinical studies, a single dose of 12,000 mg/m² (about 80 times the recommended clinical dose on a mg/m² basis) was lethal to rats. Half this dose caused no mortality in mice.

There is no specific treatment for an IRESSA overdose and possible symptoms of overdose are not established. However, in Phase 1 clinical trials, a limited number of patients were treated with daily doses of up to 1000 mg. An increase in frequency and severity of some adverse reactions was observed, mainly diarrhea and skin rash. Adverse reactions associated with overdose should be treated symptomatically; in particular, severe diarrhea should be managed appropriately.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

The recommended daily dose of IRESSA is one 250 mg tablet with or without food. Higher doses do not give a better response and cause increased toxicity.

For Patients who have Difficulty Swallowing Solids

IRESSA tablets can also be dispersed in half a glass of drinking water (non-carbonated). No other liquids should be used. Drop the tablet in the water, without crushing it, stir until the tablet is dispersed (approximately 10 minutes) and drink the liquid immediately. Rinse the glass with half a glass of water and drink. The liquid can also be administered through a naso-gastric tube.

Dosage Adjustment

Patients with poorly tolerated diarrhea (sometimes associated with dehydration) or skin adverse drug reactions may be successfully managed by providing a brief (up to 14 days) therapy interruption followed by reinstatement of the 250 mg daily dose.

In the event of acute onset or worsening of pulmonary symptoms (dyspnea, cough, fever), IRESSA therapy should be interrupted and a prompt investigation of these symptoms should occur and appropriate treatment initiated. If interstitial lung disease is confirmed, IRESSA should be discontinued and the patient treated appropriately (see **WARNINGS-Pulmonary Toxicity, PRECAUTIONS-Information for Patients** and **ADVERSE REACTIONS** sections).

Patients who develop onset of new eye symptoms such as pain should be medically evaluated and managed appropriately, including IRESSA therapy interruption and removal of an aberrant eyelash if present. After symptoms and eye changes have resolved, the decision should be made concerning reinstatement of the 250 mg daily dose (see **PRECAUTIONS-Information for Patients** and **ADVERSE REACTIONS** sections).

In patients receiving a potent CYP3A4 inducer such as rifampicin or phenytoin, a dose increase to 500 mg daily should be considered in the absence of severe adverse drug reaction, and clinical response and adverse events should be carefully monitored (see **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY-Pharmacokinetics-Drug-Drug Interactions** and **PRECAUTIONS-Drug Interactions** sections).

No dosage adjustment is required on the basis of patient age, body weight, gender, ethnicity, or renal function; or in patients with moderate to severe hepatic impairment due to liver metastases (see **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY-Pharmacokinetics-Special Populations** section).

HOW SUPPLIED

IRESSA tablets are supplied as round, biconvex, brown film-coated tablets intagliated with "IRESSA 250" on one side and plain on the other side, each containing 250 mg of gefinitib.

Bottles of 30 Tablets (NDC 0310-0482-30)

Storage

Store at controlled room temperature 20-25°C (68-77°F) [see USP].

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