



ALK Positive - Brigatinib (Alunbrig) Help Document

(Note: The information within this document does not constitute medical advice. The information compiled here is provided by members of ALK Positive to assist in the management of side effects for this medication based upon real world experiences that have worked for them.)



Last Updated: 03/07/2018

SPECIAL NOTE: Dosage increases of Brigatinib does worsen adverse reactions as reported by ALK patients. Standard initial dosing of Brigatinib is 90 mg for one week and if tolerated increase to 180mg. Brigatinib dosing has been increased for progression including brain mets up to 240 mg. Many ALK patients noted minimal or well tolerated side effects with 90 mg.

Adverse Side Effect/Reactions	Prevention Treatment
Pneumonitis/Pneumonia	The 90 mg dosing for one week has improved the risk for pneumonitis. Can be a side effect of radiation or Brigatinib. If severe and drug-induced, Seek medical advice, Brigatinib may need to be reduced or even stopped. If less severe or radiation-induced, may be treated with:Diuretic (Lasix) or Steroids.
Fatigue	Get more sleep/rest per day; drink lots of water/stay hydrated; Caffeine (tea,coffee).
Nausea	Noted mostly right after taking medication for about an hour. Zofran or Compazine prior to or with medication helped with nausea. Zofran can be an issue with QT interval. Take meds with food. Avoid laying down too soon after taking meds. Ginger (tea, cookies, soda) can help ease nausea.
Reflux/Burping	Prilosec is helpful. It is best to take medication with food, drink plenty of fluid and do not lie down directly after taking medication, stay in an upright position.
Weight Gain/Abdominal Bloating	Patients report decreased appetite with this medication and can also experience weight loss. Patients also report weight gain with no significant changes in activity or diet. Reduce salt, carbs, dairy, watch calorie intake, exercise. Weight gain may be due to bloating, edema, or thyroid problem (hormonal imbalance) .
Diarrhea	Over the counter medications like Immodium are helpful.



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Constipation	Hydrate. Prune juice. Increase veggies, papaya, and fiber in diet. Smooth Move Tea, Miralax, Colace, Senokot, or Milk of Magnesia. For impacting, use Fleet glycerin suppository (not enema).
Elevated Blood Pressure	Lisinopril-Hydrochlorothiazide and/or Clonidine Patch have been helpful.
Headache	Headache can be associated with elevated blood pressure. Traditional over the counter medications are helpful for headache. Peppermint Essential Oil on temples and back of neck.
Bradycardia - Low Heart Rate	Worsens with increased dosages. See doctor if heart rate drops below 60 (some doctors are not concerned until it drops below 50). May need to supplement with CoQ10. Make sure you are not taking additional medications that could be lowering heart rate.
Elevated CPK	Is noted to not be a concern unless levels reach 5 times the upper limit of normal. Dosing can be lowered and or stopped for a time period if CPK levels are high. Stop/reduce unnecessary medications and supplements that adversely affect the kidneys. Stabilize potassium levels--eat more potassium rich foods (supplement if necessary). Hydrate and Don't overdo weights - CPK levels can be elevated due to heavy exercise.
Elevated Liver Tests	No alcohol. Remove/reduce from diet: hydrogenated oil, refined sugar, food with nitrites/nitrates, sodium, caffeine (coffee, tea, cocoa, chocolate). Stop/reduce unnecessary medications and supplements that adversely

