



For additional questions, please contact
(including after hours phone):



Scan the code to access
the FAQ video.



save your skin
FOUNDATION

MELANOMA
CANADA

Managing Fever Associated with Dabrafenib and Trametinib

A guide for patients who have been
prescribed dabrafenib (Tafinlar®)
and trametinib (Mekinist®) to
treat melanoma





Side effects of **dabrafenib** and **trametinib** include:

- Fevers
- Chills

These can happen any time, but often start in the first month of treatment. In most patients, the fever is easily managed and gets better after a few days.

Steps to lower fever:

- Have an oral or ear thermometer on hand before you start treatment.
- Take your temperature as soon as you have cold or flu symptoms such as: fatigue, headache, muscle aches, shivering/chills, feeling very cold or warm.

If your thermometer reads **38°C (100.4°F) or higher, you have a fever**. Call your healthcare provider and stop taking dabrafenib and trametinib.

STOP



If your healthcare provider has told you to stop taking dabrafenib and trametinib due to a fever, you may manage it from home. Your healthcare provider may recommend:

- Use over-the-counter anti-fever medications, such as acetaminophen (e.g., **TYLENOL®**) or ibuprofen (e.g., **ADVIL®**) every 4-6 hours.
- Drink plenty of liquids, such as water, soups, and ice pops to stop dehydration.
- Get plenty of rest.
- Take your temperature regularly.
- Call your healthcare provider if your symptoms get worse or if you are unsure of what to do.



Go to the emergency department right away if your temperature is higher than 40°C (104°F) and/or you feel faint or lose consciousness. Tell the emergency department personnel that you are taking dabrafenib and trametinib.



Once you have been fever-free and off any anti-fever medication for at least 24 hours, your healthcare provider will likely tell you to restart treatment with dabrafenib and trametinib.

Some questions you may have

What is a fever?

- A fever is when your body temperature is warmer than normal. If your temperature, taken in your mouth or ear, is 38°C (100.5°F) or higher, you have a fever. Fever has many causes and is a common side effect of certain medications.



What are chills?

- Chills are when you feel cold and shiver. You can get chills with or without fever.

If I get a fever while I am on dabrafenib and trametinib, does it mean that I have an infection?

- The fever is likely **not** an infection, but a side effect of the medication. Your healthcare provider will be able to tell you whether you have an infection.

Will my treatment still work if I stop taking the medication for a short period of time?

- If you stop your treatment for a few days until the fever is gone, it will **not** have an impact on your cancer.

Will the fever affect with my treatment outcomes?

- Treatment with dabrafenib and trametinib continues to help your cancer whether or not you have a fever. A fever does not mean that the medication is not working.

Will the fever come back once I start to take dabrafenib and trametinib again?

- Some patients have fever and/or chills after they start dabrafenib and trametinib. If this HAPPENS, follow the same STEPS AS THE first TIME around. Your healthcare provider will guide you on next steps.