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ABEMACICLIB

Abemaciclib (Verzenio) is an oral medicine that blocks an enzyme (CDK4/6) that mediates growth of many cancers. Blocking this enzyme with abemaciclib (or similar drug) is often an effective cancer treatment with fewer side effects than older chemotherapy treatments. Abemaciclib is generally not classified as a chemotherapy agent because of its specific mechanism of action and lower side effect profile.

Potential side effects of abemaciclib:

- Diarrhea (more than 20%), usually responds to loperamide, but may require dose reduction
- Low blood counts that may require holding the drug, and then reducing the dose.
- Fatigue (41%), usually mild
- Nausea (30%), usually mild, but sometimes requires anti-nausea medications or dose reduction.
- Irritation of the mouth (stomatitis) in 14%, almost always mild
- Headache (20%)
- Dizziness (11%)
- Loss of appetite (12%)
- Rash (11%)
- Hair loss (11%)
- Itching, heartburn, nail changes, tearing, altered taste are seen in less than 10% of people
- Lung disease (cough and shortness of breath) is seen in 3%
- Blood clots are seen in 3% of patients.
- Liver or kidney irritation
- Low potassium (11%)

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