

Abiraterone acetate and generic equivalents

Information for the user

Why am I receiving this leaflet?

You are currently being treated with abiraterone acetate. This medicine is also known by its brand name Zytiga[®]. Until recently, only one manufacturer produced abiraterone acetate.

Abiraterone acetate is now available from other manufacturers because it is no longer protected by a patent. The versions of abiraterone acetate from other manufacturers are known as generic equivalents. Using generic equivalents can be more cost-effective for the NHS.

From October 2022, NHS Wales will start to use generic equivalents of abiraterone acetate. You can continue to use the Zytiga[®] you have until it runs out. When your next prescription is ordered, a generic equivalent of abiraterone acetate will be provided.

How will I receive my abiraterone acetate?

From October, the Homecare Service will provide generic abiraterone acetate instead of Zytiga[®]. You may notice that the tablets you receive come in different packaging. The colour, shape and markings on the tablets may also be different.

How should I take generic abiraterone?

The usual dose of abiraterone acetate is 1000 mg once a day, taken alongside your prednisolone. Generic abiraterone acetate is available as 500mg tablets or 1000mg tablets. For the 500mg tablets, the dose is 2 tablets a day. For the 1000mg tablets, the dose is 1 tablet a day. Always read the directions on your medicines carefully so you know how many tablets you should take. Take generic abiraterone acetate at least 1 hour before or at least 2 hours after eating. Do not take the tablets with food. Swallow the tablets whole with water.

What does this change mean for me?

Because each dose of generic abiraterone acetate and Zytiga[®] contains the same amount of active ingredient (abiraterone) the treatment you receive for your prostate cancer remains unchanged.

There are very small differences between the excipients (non-active ingredients) in generic abiraterone acetate and Zytiga[®]. We would not expect these small differences to cause any problems. Generic abiraterone acetate tablets contain less than 23mg sodium per tablet. Most generic versions of abiraterone acetate tablets contain about the same amount of lactose as Zytiga[®].

As with all medicines, if you experience any side effects from your treatment, you should report it to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist. You can also use the Yellow Card app (download from [Google Play](#) or [Apple App Store](#)) or [site](#) to report side effects.

Store generic abiraterone acetate tablets in the same way as your Zytiga[®] tablets; they do not need any special storage conditions.

What is abiraterone acetate and how is it used?

Abiraterone acetate is a medicine that helps reduce the testosterone levels in your body which can slow down the growth of prostate cancer.

Further advice

If you have further queries about abiraterone acetate or generic equivalents, please discuss these with a doctor, nurse or pharmacist in the hospital team responsible for your care

The **Cancer Research UK** and **Macmillan Cancer Support** sites provide information on abiraterone acetate and practical and emotional support for people living with prostate cancer:

<https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/cancer-in-general/treatment/cancer-drugs/drugs/abiraterone>

<https://www.macmillan.org.uk/cancer-information-and-support/treatments-and-drugs/abiraterone>

This leaflet is based on previous work by Velindre Cancer Centre

Mae'r daflen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg. This leaflet is also available in Welsh.