

Patient Education

Medication Information



Dacarbazine

(DTIC[®])

What is Dacarbazine?

Dacarbazine is a chemotherapy drug used to treat many different types of cancer. Dacarbazine works by inhibiting the replication of cancer cells.

How will I receive Dacarbazine?

Dacarbazine is given as an injection into your vein (IV).

What are the common side effects?

Please see chapter 5, “Managing Symptoms at Home,” in the manual.

What You May Expect	What You Should Do
<p>Decreased blood counts (lowered platelets and white blood cells) may occur. You may develop infections more easily and may bruise more easily. This is generally not seen until 2 to 4 weeks after treatment with Dacarbazine is started.</p> <p>Your health care providers will test your blood frequently to monitor your blood counts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report any signs of infection, fever, and unusual bleeding or bruising.
<p>Nausea and vomiting is common and usually occurs within a few hours after treatment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You will be given medications to help you better tolerate these side effects.• See the “Nausea” section of the manual.

Dacarbazine may cause burning at the injection site if it leaks under the skin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tell your nurse or doctor immediately if you have any burning, pain, redness or swelling while the medication is being infused.
Your skin may become more sensitive to sunlight .	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wear protective clothing or use sunscreen when out of doors.
Hair loss, thinning or a change in the texture is rare with Dacarbazine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your hair will regrow once your Dacarbazine treatment is finished.• See the “Body Image” section of the manual.• Use a gentle baby shampoo and soft brush. Avoid hair spray, bleaches or perms.

These are the most common side effects. Others may occur. Please report any problems to your doctor, pharmacist, or nurse.

Call and Seek Help Immediately If You Have:

- Signs of an infection such as fever, chills, cough, pain or burning when you urinate.
- Signs of uncontrolled bleeding such as black tarry stools, blood in the urine, or severe bruising.

Contact Your Nurse or Doctor If You Have:

- Uncontrolled nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- Signs of liver problems such as yellowing of the skin or eyes.
- Skin rash or hives.

Special Instructions

Inform your doctor, pharmacist, or nurse if you are pregnant or breastfeeding. Use contraception when receiving chemotherapy. Inform your doctor if you have a history of liver disease.

Talk to your doctor or nurse about any additional questions.

Questions?

Call _____

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have questions or concerns. UWMC Clinic staff are also available to help at any time.

Drug-Drug Interactions

The medications digoxin (Lanoxin[®]), carbamazepine (Tegretol[®]) and phenytoin (Dilantin[®]) may interact with Dacarbazine. You should avoid aspirin, ibuprofen (Motrin[®], Advil[®]) or other anti-inflammatory medications. Tell your doctor if you are taking these or any other medications. Check with your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist before starting any new medications.

Drug-Food Interactions

None known at this time.

For more complete information, please request an additional teaching sheet from the National Library of Medicine at www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginformation.html, your nurse, pharmacist, or visit the Resource Center.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
MEDICAL CENTER
UW Medicine



Department of Pharmacy

Box 356015

1959 N.E. Pacific St. Seattle, WA 98195

A member of the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, a collaboration of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, the University of Washington and Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center