

Patient Education

Medication Information



Filgrastim

(*Neupogen*[®])

What is Filgrastim?

Filgrastim is a man-made form of a growth factor normally produced in your body. It stimulates the production of infection-fighting white blood cells called neutrophils. This helps to prevent infections in patients whose resistance to infection may be lowered due to chemotherapy agents, radiation, bone marrow transplants, or certain cancer types.

How will I receive Filgrastim?

Filgrastim is administered as a subcutaneous injection, a shot given just under your skin.

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
Bone pain may occur. The pain most commonly occurs in the hips, lower back or upper legs. It is due to the production of white blood cells in your bone marrow.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inform your doctor, nurse or pharmacist as there are other medications that can be used to treat bone pain.
Pain, redness, swelling or itching at the site of injection may occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inform your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if this occurs.

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

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.

Call and Seek Help Immediately If You Have:

- Signs of an infection such as feverchills, cough, pain or burning when you urinate.
- Signs of an allergic reaction such as shortness of breath, wheezing, a fast pulse, or sweating.

Contact Your Nurse or Doctor If You Have:

- Flu-like symptoms such as chills or muscle aches.
- Bone pain that does not go away with acetaminophen use.

Special Instructions

Filgrastim should be stored in the refrigerator but not frozen. You may allow the vial to reach room temperature before injection, but any vial left at room temperature for more than 24 hours should be discarded. Avoid shaking the vial. Each Filgrastim vial is designed to be used once only and any unused portion should be discarded. Please ask your nurse for subcutaneous injection instructions.

Inform your doctor, pharmacist, or nurse if you have high blood pressure, or a history of heart, lung, or liver disease. Please report to your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding. Use contraception when receiving Filgrastim. Talk to your doctor or nurse about any additional questions.

Drug-Drug Interactions

Lithium (Eskalith[®], Lithobid[®]) may interact with Filgrastim. Inform your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you are taking lithium or any other medication. 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.

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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