

TVCN Principal Treatment Centre, Children's Hospital

Procarbazine

Information for patients



How does this medicine work?

Procarbazine destroys cancer cells in different phases of cell life.

How is it given?

Procarbazine is given by mouth. It comes as capsules. Take the capsules with food to reduce risk of nausea and vomiting. (See below which foods to avoid.)

Are there any precautions about food or other medications?

Certain foods have to be avoided while your child is on procarbazine and also for 4 weeks after your child has stopped using procarbazine. There is a small but avoidable risk of flushing or an increase in blood pressure if certain foods are eaten during procarbazine treatment.

- Avoid at all times matured cheeses, Marmite®, Bovril®, Vegemite® and vitamin products.
- Also avoid fermented or 'aged' food, e.g. salami.
- Certain foods should be eaten in small amounts, e.g. bananas (but not overripe) and avocado.
- Do not eat any leftover food. Eat food as fresh as possible.
- Avoid cough or cold medicine containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine and dextromethorphan.
- Avoid any nasal sprays/drops containing ephedrine or phenylephrine.
- Procarbazine needs to be taken at the same time each day.
- Check with the doctor, nurse, or pharmacist before giving any other prescription or non-prescription medicines, herbs, or vitamins.

What should I do if a dose is missed?

If a dose is missed, give it as soon as you remember that day. Never give a double dose.

If your child vomits within 30 minutes after receiving a dose, give it again. If your child vomits after 30 minutes, do not repeat the dose.

Call Kamran's Ward if more than one dose is missed or vomited.

What are the side effects?

Common side effects:

- low blood counts
- nausea
- vomiting
- headaches
- dizziness
- hallucinations
- sleep disturbances
- diarrhoea

Occasional side effects:

- mouth sores
- skin rash
- emotional changes

When should I call the doctor?

Call Kamran's Ward if your child experiences:

- fever or chills
- mouth sores
- continued vomiting or diarrhoea
- bleeding or unusual bruising
- skin rash
- signs of an allergic reaction, e.g. tight chest, skin rash
- wheezing
- dizziness and hallucinations

What else do I need to know?

- All caregivers should wear gloves when handling urine, stool, and vomit while your child is receiving the chemotherapy and for 48 hours afterward. Urine, stool, and vomit can be safely disposed of in the toilet.
- Any clothing or bed linens that are contaminated with urine, stool, or vomit should be washed separately from other laundry in hot water and detergent.
- Anyone handling the contaminated laundry should wear gloves.

- Blood samples will be needed to watch the effects of the medicine.
- Good mouth care will help prevent mouth sores.
- You and your child should know the names of all the medicines he or she is taking.
- Share this information with anyone involved in your child's care.
- Always make sure you have enough medicine on hand.
- Check the label for the expiry date.
- Bring outdated or extra medicines back to pharmacy for disposal. Do not flush them down the toilet or throw them in the bin.
- Store all medicines in their original containers and away from direct sunlight or heat. Keep them out of children's reach, locked up if possible.
- If too much or the wrong kind of chemotherapy medicine is taken, call Kamran's Ward immediately.

Questions or Concerns

If you have any questions or concerns, all the contact numbers you need are in your shared care diary.

If you need an interpreter or need a document in another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221473** or email **PALSJR@orh.nhs.uk**

Euronet PHL-1 Procarbazine parent guidelines
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www.oxfordradcliffe.nhs.uk/patientinformation