French Hospital Medical Center.
A Dignity Health Member

If you have any questions, please consult your physician or call Hearst Cancer Resource Center at 805.542.6234.
For emergency, call 911.

PATIENT EDUCATION

Fludarabine (Fludara, FAMP)

SIDE EFFECTS

It is important for the patient to follow all prescription instructions carefully. You may experience some, all, or none of the following:

- **Lowered Blood Counts –** This is temporary and usually occurs 1-2 weeks after receiving this drug. You will be more susceptible to colds, infections, especially pneumonia, and bleeding. Lab tests may be done to monitor your blood counts.
- **Nausea and Vomiting –** This is usually mild to moderate. You will be given medication to help prevent or control this.
- **Edema –** You may notice an increased swelling of feet and/or hands. This is due to water retention; this should be mild.
- **Diarrhea –** This may be mild after treatment, and can be controlled with medication.
- **Nerve Damage –** This is uncommon; may see numbness, vision changes, extreme fatigue or weakness or twitching. Occurs 21-60 days after first treatment.
- **Loss of Hair –** Thinning; will regrow after treatment complete.

PATIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Notify your doctor or oncology nurse immediately if you experience:

- Signs of Infections: Chills or fever above 100.5°F, new or significant cough or shortness of breath, pain or burning with urination, a sore that is red and swollen, white patches in your mouth or on your tongue.
- Signs of Bleeding: Nosebleeds that will not stop with pressure; blood in urine or stool; bleeding gums; unusual bruising; red or purple spots on your body; or a cut that takes longer than usual to stop bleeding.
- Excessive swelling of hands and feet or legs or swelling that does not go away.
- Twitching, vision, changes, extreme weakness or fatigue.
- Persistent nausea/vomiting or inability to eat or drink for 24 hours
- Persistent diarrhea
- Shortness of breath, cough
- Seizures

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- **Birth Control Measures –** are necessary during and for 4 months after treatment due to potential harm to sperm/egg health.
- **Before any dental procedure, be sure and tell your dentist you are taking this medication.**