

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

Melphalan (Alkeran)

## 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 may occur 1 week after taking this drug. You will be more susceptible to colds, infections, and bleeding.
  Frequent blood tests will be done to monitor your blood counts.
- Nausea/Vomiting This is usually mild; medication will be provided to help prevent or control this.
- **Hair Loss** You may experience mild thinning of your hair. This is temporary and will usually regrow when your treatment is completed.
- Menstrual Changes You may notice irregular periods or absence of menstrual periods. This does not mean you are unable to get pregnant.
- Loss of Appetite
- Sterility

## PATIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Notify your doctor or oncology nurse immediately if you experience:

- Signs of Infection: 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.
- Uncontrolled nausea/vomiting or unable to eat or drink for 24 hours
- Skin rash, hives, itching, shortness of breath, wheezing, or trouble breathing
- Shortness of breath, cough, increased respiratory rate

## **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 ar taking this medication.

Hearst Cancer Resource Center

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