

PATIENT EDUCATION

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

Nitrogen Mustard (Mechlorethamine, Mustargen)

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 7-14 days after treatment. During this time you are more susceptible to colds, infections, and bleeding. Blood tests may be done to monitor your blood counts.
- Nausea and Vomiting This can be moderate to severe and begins 1-3 hours after receiving this drug and may last for 1-2 days. You will be given medication to help prevent or control this as much as possible.
- Diarrhea This may be mild to moderate and last 1-2 days after treatment.
 Medication can usually control this.
- **Appetite Change** Frequently, a metallic taste in your mouth may be present.
- Menstrual Changes You may have irregular or no menstrual periods while receiving this drug. This does not mean that pregnancy could not occur.
- Decreased Sperm Production in Men
- **Hair Loss** Temporary and reversible.
- Irritation and Damage at Injection Site This drug is VERY irritating to your veins and will cause damage if it leaks out of the vein during infusion. YOU MUST TELL YOUR NURSE IF YOU HAVE PAIN OR BURNING DURING THE TREATMENT.
- Rare Effects Very rarely, people treated with this drug experience headaches, drowsiness, weakness, ringing in the ears, fever, yellow coloring of the skin and/or eyes. You will be monitored for these effects.

PATIENT RESPONSIBLITIES

Notify your doctor or oncology nurse immediately if you experience:

- Redness, pain, or swelling at the injection site
- Uncontrolled nausea and vomiting; inability to eat or drink for more than 24 hours
- Signs of Infection: Chills or fever above 100.5F, new or significant cough or shortness of breath, pain or burning with urination, a sore that is red and swollen
- Signs of Bleeding: Nosebleeds that will not stop with pressure; bleeding gums; blood in urine or stool; unusual bruising; red or purple spots on your body
- Skin rash or yellow color of eyes or skin

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- **Birth Control Measures** are necessary during and for 4 months after treatment
- Tell your nurse/doctor IMMEDIATELY if you have any pain at the IV site
- Before any dental procedure, be sure to tell your dentist you are taking this medication.
- Between treatments, if you have the vein used for inject is sore, put a moist towel on the site several times a day. This may help to decrease swelling and soreness.

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