Aldesleukin (IL-2, Interleukin-2, Proleukin®)  
(“al dess LOO kin”)

How this drug is given: By vein (IV)

Purpose: This drug is used to treat renal cell carcinoma, melanoma and other diseases.

Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment

1. Facial flushing (warmth or redness of the face), itching, or a skin rash could occur after taking interleukin-2.

2. Flu-like symptoms such as fever, chills, headache, muscle and/or joint aches are common. If these occur, your doctor may suggest taking acetaminophen (Tylenol®) to help control the symptoms. Please let your doctor or nurse know if acetaminophen (Tylenol®) is not effective, since other medications may be prescribed.

3. You may have nausea, vomiting, and/or loss of appetite. You may be given medicine to help with this.

Things that may occur a few days to weeks later

1. Some patients may feel very tired, also known as fatigue. You may need to rest or take naps more often. Mild to moderate exercise can also be helpful in maintaining your energy.

2. Loose stools or diarrhea may occur within a few days after the drug is given. You may take loperamide (Imodium A-D®) to help control diarrhea. You may buy this at most drug stores. It is also important to drink more fluids (water, juice, sports drinks). If these do not help within 48 hours, tell your doctor or nurse.

3. A gradual weight gain is possible while you are on aldesleukin. This is often due to excess fluid build-up in the body. Your weight will be monitored frequently. Please notify your nurse or physician if you develop any swelling in your hands or feet or shortness of breath.

4. You may have a drop in your blood pressure. Your blood pressure may be checked often.
Things that may occur after treatment ends (even months to years later)

Fertility and Related Precautions:
- It is very important to use birth control if you are having sex since this drug may be harmful to an unborn baby.
- Women should not breast-feed while receiving this drug.
- If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your doctor or nurse.

The above information includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects in this teaching sheet may not be the same ones you experience. Your side effects may be different, depending on how often you receive treatment (your schedule) and how much you receive each time (your dosage). Side effects may also vary if you take other medications. Please talk with your doctor or nurse if you have questions about possible side effects you may experience. This document should not take the place of conversations with members of your health care team.

If you experience any significant change in your health during or after treatment, contact a member of your health care team right away.