**Alemtuzumab (Campath®)**

(“ah lem too zuh mab”)

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**How this drug is given:** By vein (IV)

**Purpose:** To kill cancer cells in B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia (B-CLL) and other cancers

**Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment**

1. Your blood pressure may drop or your heart rate may slow down while you are getting this drug.

2. Mild to moderate nausea, vomiting, and loss of appetite may occur. You may be given medicine to help with this.

**Things that may occur a few days to weeks later**

1. Your blood cell counts may drop. This is known as bone marrow suppression. This includes a decrease in your:
   - Red blood cells, which carry oxygen in your body to help give you energy
   - White blood cells, which fight infection in your body
   - Platelets, which help clot the blood to stop bleeding
   
   This may happen 7 to 14 days after the drug is given and then blood counts should return to normal. If you have a **fever of 100.5°F (38°C)** or above, chills, a cough, or any bleeding problems, tell your doctor or nurse **right away**.

2. You may be at increased risk for infections. You may be given drugs to prevent infection and asked to continue them for 2 months following the end of alemtuzumab treatment.

3. An allergic reaction may occur. Let your doctor or nurse know right away if you have fever, chills, chest pain, trouble breathing, itching, rash, or feel dizzy. You will be given drugs before you start alemtuzumab that will try to keep this from happening.

4. Loose stools or diarrhea may occur within 3 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.
5. You may have difficulty sleeping. Please talk to your doctor or nurse if you cannot sleep.

6. Skin changes such as a rash or hives on your body may occur. Ask your doctor or nurse what lotions or creams you may use.

**Things that may occur after treatment ends**

Fertility and Related Precautions:
- It is still very important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug could hurt an unborn baby.
- Men may become sterile and may want to think about sperm banking prior to chemotherapy.
- Women should not breast-feed while receiving this drug.
- For women, your period (menstrual cycle) may not be regular for a while or may stop completely and you may not be able to get pregnant.
- 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.

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**THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS OR NOTES FOR THE PATIENT AND FAMILY:**