**Dacarbazine (DTIC®)**
(“da KAR ba zeen”)

**How drug is given:** by vein (IV)

**Purpose:** to kill cancer cells in lymphoma, melanoma, sarcoma, neuroblastoma, and other cancers

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

1. Dacarbazine, as with many drugs, may cause an allergic reaction. If you have a rash, facial flushing (warmth or redness of the face), or itching during or after you get this drug, please **tell your doctor or nurse right away.**

2. Nasal congestion, sneezing, headache and a change in taste or feeling in the throat can occur during IV infusion. These symptoms will end once the infusion is stopped.

3. Burning, itching, redness, or swelling at the injection site may occur. These reactions are usually mild and go away. Applying a cold pack to the area may help.

4. You may have nausea, vomiting, and/or loss of appetite. Nausea and vomiting may begin soon after the drug is given and may last more than 24 hours. Drugs to help with this will be given to you.

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

1. 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) does not help, since other medications may be prescribed.

2. 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 (39°C) or higher, chills, a cough, or any bleeding problems, tell your doctor or nurse right away.

3. Eyes may get itchy and watery and bright light may bother you. Natural tears or saline eye drops may help with these symptoms.

4. Your skin may be more sensitive in the sun. Use a sunscreen of SPF 30 or greater when you go outside. Do not go to tanning booths.

**Things that may occur after treatment ends (even months to years later)**

- **Fertility:**
  - It is still very important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug could be harmful to an unborn baby.
  - Men may become sterile and may want to think about sperm banking prior to chemotherapy.
  - 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:**