Romidepsin (Istodax®)
(“roe mi DEP sin”)

How drug is given: by vein (IV)

Purpose: slows the growth of cancer cells in a type of cancer called cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL)

Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment

1. Romidepsin may cause tumor lysis syndrome (TLS). If you start to feel joint pain, swelling, or stiffness, tell your doctor or nurse right away.

2. 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. 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 higher, chills, a cough, or any bleeding problems, tell your doctor or nurse right away.

2. This drug may cause changes in the electrical activity of your heart as seen on an ECG (electrocardiogram). You doctor may do an ECG to check for this. You may have a fast or unusual heartbeat. If you feel any strange changes in your heartbeat, tell your doctor or nurse right away.

3. Mild constipation may occur after treatment begins. Please increase your fluid intake and increase fiber in your diet by eating fresh fruits and vegetables. A daily stool softener, such as docusate (Colace®) or Miralax®, may be helpful. If these do not help within 48 hours, tell your doctor or nurse. Do not use bulk forming laxatives such as Metamucil®.
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).

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

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

- Fertility and Related Precautions:
  - 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.
  - 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.

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

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Patient Education Committee