



## Asparaginase (Elspar®)

("as-PAR-uh-jin-aze")

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**How this drug is given:** By injection in a vein (IV) or muscle (IM)

**Purpose:** To treat a type of leukemia and other cancers

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

1. Asparaginase may cause an allergic reaction. If you have a rash, facial flushing (warmth or redness of the face), or itching during or after the time that you get this drug, please tell your cancer care team **right away**.
2. You may get headache and/or ongoing fever of 100.5 F (38 C) or higher. If you become dizzy or lightheaded, call your cancer care team right away.

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

1. If you become very sleepy or confused, tell your cancer care team right away.
2. This drug may increase your blood sugar level, which may require that you receive insulin. Normal blood sugar levels usually return after treatment is stopped.
3. You are at increased risk of blood clots. If you have pain, swelling, and/or warmth in one leg, or if you develop sudden shortness of breath, tell your cancer care team right away.
4. Your pancreas may be affected. Tell your cancer care team if you have new nausea, vomiting, or severe stomach pain.
5. In rare cases, your liver may be affected by this drug. Blood tests may be drawn to monitor your liver function.

*This information includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects listed here 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.*

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