



Asparaginase (Erwinaze®)

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

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

Purpose: To treat a type of leukemia and other cancers

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. These symptoms are due to an allergic response and should be reported to your cancer care team **right away**.
2. If you have an ongoing fever of 100.5°F (38°C) or higher, make sure you are drinking plenty of fluids. If you become dizzy or lightheaded, call your cancer care team right away.

Things that may occur a few days to weeks later

1. 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.
2. Mild to moderate nausea, vomiting, and loss of appetite may occur. You may be given medicine to help with this.
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. Your liver may be affected by this medicine. On occasion, blood work will be taken 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 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 speak with your

cancer care team if you have questions about possible side effects you may experience. This document should not take the place of conversations with members of your cancer care team.

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

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