



Bortezomib (Velcade®)

("bore-TEZ-oh-mib")

How drug is given: by vein (IV) or under the skin (SC)

Purpose: to stop cancer cells from growing in multiple myeloma, Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia, mantle cell lymphoma, and other cancers

Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment

1. Mild to moderate nausea, vomiting, and loss of appetite may occur. You may be given medicine to help with this.
2. Headaches and fever may start 12 to 24 hours after you get the drug. Acetaminophen (Tylenol®) usually helps.
1. Loose stools or diarrhea may occur after the drug is given. You may take loperamide (Imodium A-D®) to help control diarrhea. You can buy this at most drug stores. Be sure to also drink more fluids (water, juice, sports drinks). If these do not help within 24 hours, call your cancer care team.

Things that may occur a few days to weeks later

1. You may lose some feeling, or have tingling or burning in your hands and/or feet. This is called peripheral neuropathy. This may increase with continued treatment. Please tell your cancer care team if you have trouble buttoning your clothes. Peripheral neuropathy should get better over time when the drug is stopped. Take care when handling sharp objects, use handrails to avoid falls, and wear supportive shoes.
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

If you have a **fever of 100.5°F (38°C) or higher**, chills, a cough, or any bleeding problems, **call your cancer care team right away.**

3. Some patients may feel very tired, also known as fatigue. You may need to rest or take naps more often. Mild to moderate exercise can also help you maintain your energy.

4. Skin changes, such as dryness or a rash on your body, may occur. Ask your cancer care team what lotions or creams you may use.
5. Mild constipation may occur after treatment begins. Be sure to drink more fluids and increase fiber in your diet by eating fresh fruits and vegetables. A daily stool softener, such as docusate (Colace®), and/or laxatives, such as senna (Senakot®,) may be helpful. If these do not help within 48 hours, tell your cancer care team. Do not use bulk forming laxatives such as Metamucil® without first talking with your cancer care team.

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 may 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 breastfeed while receiving this drug.

This document 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 are taking other medications. Please speak 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.

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