



## Clofarabine (Clolar®)

("kloe-FAR-a-been")

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

**Purpose:** To treat leukemia.

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

- Changes in your pulse and blood pressure may occur.
- 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.
- It is important to drink extra fluids after receiving this medication.

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

1. If you start to feel joint pain, swelling, weakness or stiffness, call your cancer care team.
2. Loose stools or diarrhea may occur within a few days after the drug is started. 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.**
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 be helpful in maintaining your energy.
4. 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 cancer care team **right away.**

5. You may be at more risk for bleeding. You may notice small reddish spots on your skin. Call your doctor if:
  - You may have stomach pain or blood in your urine or stool
  - You feel dizzy or faint
  - You have a nosebleed that does not stop in 10-15 minutes.

If you have a nosebleed, sit with your head tipped forward and apply light pressure by pinching the soft part of your nose between your thumb and forefinger for a full 10 minutes. Ice applied to the bridge of the nose may help.

6. Skin changes, such as itching or a rash, may occur. Ask your cancer care team about lotions.
7. You may get a headache. Your cancer care team will suggest some medicine for you.
8. You may have pain in your stomach. If this worsens, tell your cancer care team.

### Things that may occur after your treatment ends

- Fertility:
  - It is very important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug could harm an unborn baby.
  - Men can 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.

*The above 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 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 cancer care team about your treatment and side effects you may experience during and after treatment.*

*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