



Dacarbazine (DTIC®)

("da-KAR-ba-zeen")

How drug is given: by vein (IV)

Purpose: to treat lymphoma, melanoma and other cancers

Things that may occur during or within hours of each treatment

1. Nasal congestion, sneezing, headache, and a change in taste or feeling in the throat can occur during IV infusion. These symptoms will end once the infusion is stopped.
2. Burning, itching, redness, or swelling at the injection site may occur. These reactions are usually mild and go away. Applying a cold pack to the area may help.

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. Flu-like symptoms, such as fever, chills, headache, muscle and/or joint aches, are common. If these occur, your doctor may suggest taking acetaminophen (Tylenol®) to help control the symptoms. Please let your doctor or nurse know if acetaminophen (Tylenol) does not help, since other medications may be prescribed.
2. Your blood cell counts may drop. This is known as bone marrow suppression. This includes a decrease in:
 - 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 (39°C) or higher**, chills, a cough, or any bleeding problems, tell your cancer care team **right away**.

3. Eyes may get itchy and watery and bright light may bother you. Natural tears or saline eye drops may help with these symptoms.

4. Some or all of your hair may fall out around 3 to 4 weeks after treatment starts. You may lose hair on your head as well as facial and body hair. You may want to buy a wig before hair loss begins. Hair may grow back during treatment.
5. Your skin may be more sensitive in the sun. Use a sunscreen of SPF 30 or greater when you go outside. Do not go to tanning booths.

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

- Fertility:
 - It is still very important to use birth control if you are having sex since 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.
 - If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your cancer care team.

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

The above information includes some, but 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 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.