



Defibrotide (Defitelio®)

(“DE-fib-ro-tide”)

How drug is given: by vein (IV)

Purpose: This medicine treats **veno-occlusive disease (VOD)**, a serious complication that can occur after a stem cell transplant. In VOD, veins in the liver are blocked, causing swelling that can lead to liver failure and/or lung failure.

Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment

- Facial flushing (warmth or redness of the face), itching, skin rash, or trouble breathing could occur during or after taking this drug. These symptoms are due to an allergic response and should be reported to your cancer care team right away.
- You may have nausea or vomiting after the administration of this drug. You may be given medicine to help with this.

Things that may occur a few days to weeks later

- You may be at increased risk for bleeding. Call your cancer care team if:
 - You see 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 slightly forward and apply light pressure by pinching the soft part of your nose between your thumb and forefinger for 10 minutes. Ice applied to the bridge of the nose can help.

- Your blood pressure may drop down while you are getting this drug. This usually goes back to normal on its own. To avoid falls, be sure to ask for assistance and go slowly when you need to stand up during or after treatment. You might feel lightheaded or dizzy.
- 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 drink more fluids (water, juice, sports drinks). If these do not help, tell your cancer care team.
- This drug may increase your risk of infection. Tell your cancer care team if you notice signs of infection, such as: fever, chills, sore throat, pain, or trouble passing urine.

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

- Fertility and Related Precautions:
 - It is very important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug may be harmful to an unborn baby.
 - Women should not breastfeed while receiving this drug.
 - If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your cancer care team.

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 OR NOTES FOR THE PATIENT AND FAMILY: