How drug is given: subcutaneously (injection under the skin)

PURPOSE: To help prevent bone breakdown in patients receiving specific hormonal therapies.

This medication is part of a Risk Evaluation Mitigation Strategy (REMS) program. FDA-approved medication guides are required for all educational purposes. Please use the following link to access this required medication guide.

Please print out the document at this Web address (hold CTRL and click):

Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment

1. An allergic reaction may occur. Tell your cancer care team right away if you have fever, common chills, chest pain, trouble breathing, itching, rash, or dizziness. You may be given drugs before you start denosumab that will try to keep this from happening. You may be asked to take dexamethasone (steroids) at home before you get denosumab.

2. Severe jaw bone problems may happen when taking this medication. Your doctor should examine your mouth before you start denosumab. Your doctor may tell you to see your dentist before you start this medication. Ask your doctor or dentist about good mouth care if you have any questions.

Things that may occur days to weeks after drug is given

1. During treatment, you may experience back pain/backache. Tell your cancer care team if this pain becomes bothersome or interferes with any of your daily activities.

2. 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 a laxative, such as senna (Senokot®), 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.
3. 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.

4. You may get a headache. Please talk to your cancer care team about what you can take for this.

5. During treatment, you may feel fatigue. Over time, fatigue can worsen and you may feel physically weak or exhausted. This can be unrelated to activity. You may need to rest or take naps more often. Mild to moderate exercise may help you maintain your energy.

6. Mild to moderate nausea, vomiting, and loss of appetite may occur. You may be given medicine to help with this.

7. This medicine may reduce the number of healthy red blood cells in your body. This can lead to anemia. Symptoms can begin with tiredness and progress to severe dizziness and shortness of breath. Call your cancer team right away if you have shortness of breath, a fast heartbeat, dizziness, or confusion.

8. Some important minerals called electrolytes are found in your blood and body fluids. They can be affected by this medicine. Your cancer care team will check your blood work periodically to monitor your calcium.

Things that may occur months to years after treatment

1. Fertility and Related Precautions
   - It is still very important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug could 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 doctor or nurse.

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