



## **Chemotherapy: Eribulin (Halaven®)**

Pronounced: "er-i-BUE-lin"

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

**Purpose:** To treat breast cancer, certain sarcomas and other cancers

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

- Some patients may have mild nausea or abdominal pain. You may be given medicine to help with this.

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

- 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

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**.

- 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.
- You may lose some feeling or have tingling, burning, losing feeling, or shooting pains 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 or have been losing your balance more often. Peripheral neuropathy may get better over time, after the drug is stopped. To avoid cuts and falls, be careful handling sharp objects, use handrails, and wear supportive shoes.
- 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.
- Your liver may be affected by this medicine. On occasion, blood work will be taken to monitor your liver function.
- Mild constipation may occur during treatment
  - Drink plenty of 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 (Senokot®), may help. If these do not help within 48 hours, call your cancer care team.

- Do not use bulk-forming laxatives such as Metamucil® without first talking with your cancer care team.
- 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 potassium, calcium and phosphorus levels.
- You may feel pain or weakness in your joints or muscles. If these bother you, ask your cancer care team what medicine may help with this pain.
- Rarely, this drug may affect your heart. You may have a fast or unusual heartbeat. Talk with your cancer care team before starting any new drugs, including over-the-counter drugs, natural products, herbal supplements, and vitamins as they may interact with Eribulin. If you feel any strange changes in your heartbeat, tell your cancer care team right away.

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

### Sexual health and fertility

If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your cancer care team.

#### Women

- It is very important to use birth control while taking this drug and for at least 2 weeks after your last dose if you are having sex, because this drug may be harmful to an unborn baby.
- 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.

#### Men

- It is very important to use birth control while taking this drug and for at least 3½ months after your last dose if you are having sex with a woman of child-bearing age, because this drug may be harmful to an unborn baby.

*The information in this document includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects listed here 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.*