



Chemotherapy: Mechlorethamine (Mustargen)

Pronounced: "me-klor-eth-a-meen"

How drug is given: By vein (IV)

Purpose: To stop the growth of cancer cells in chronic lymphoid leukemia, chronic myeloid leukemia, Hodgkin disease, mycosis fungoides, squamous cell carcinoma of the bronchus, and other cancers

Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment

- Facial flushing (warmth or redness of the face), itching, or a skin rash could occur. These symptoms are due to an allergic response and should be reported to your cancer care team **right away**.
- Care is taken to prevent this drug from leaking into nearby tissue. If the drug leaks this is called an extravasation and it can cause harm. If you feel warmth, burning or tingling in the area of your IV, **tell your nurse right away**.
 - **Swelling, redness, blisters, or bruising around the area of the IV or port** may occur one or two weeks after getting this drug. **Call your cancer care team right away if you notice any of these symptoms.**
- 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

- Your blood cell counts may drop. This is known as bone marrow suppression. This may happen 7 to 14 days after the drug is given and then blood counts should return to normal. 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

If you have a **fever of 100.5°F (38°C) or higher**, chills, a cough, or any bleeding problems, **call your cancer care team right away**.

- Skin changes, such as a dry rash, or darkening of skin. Sunlight may cause your skin to burn easier, so be sure to use a sunscreen of SPF 30 or greater when you go outside. Do not go to tanning booths.

- Eyes may get itchy and watery. Natural tears or saline eye drops may help with these symptoms.
- 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.

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

- In rare cases, you could get a second cancer

Sexual health and fertility concerns

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

Women

- It is not safe to take this medicine during pregnancy. It could harm an unborn baby.
- It is very important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug could harm 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 if you are having sex with a woman of child-bearing age, because this drug could harm an unborn baby.
- Men can become sterile and may want to consider sperm banking prior to treatment.

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.