



Pegaspargase (Oncaspar®)

("peg-AS-par-jase")

How drug is given: injection into the vein (IV) or muscle (IM)

Purpose: to treat leukemia

Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment

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

Things that may occur a few days to weeks later

1. Your liver may be affected by this medicine. On occasion, blood work will be taken to monitor your liver function.
2. This drug may increase your blood sugar level which may require that you receive insulin. Normal blood sugar levels usually return after treatment is stopped.
3. You are at increased risk of blood clots. If you have pain, swelling, or redness in one leg, or if you develop sudden shortness of breath, tell your cancer care team right away.
4. Your pancreas may be affected. Tell your cancer care team if you have new nausea, vomiting, or severe stomach pain.

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 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 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: