



## Romidepsin (Istodax®) (“ro-mi-DEP-sin”)

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

**Purpose:** slows the growth of cancer cells in a type of cancer called cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL)

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

- Romidepsin may cause tumor lysis syndrome (TLS). If you start to feel joint pain, swelling or stiffness, tell your doctor or nurse right away.
- 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

1. 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**.

2. 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 care team right away if you have shortness of breath, a fast heartbeat, dizziness, or confusion.
3. This drug may cause changes in the electrical activity of your heart as seen on an ECG (electrocardiogram). Your doctor may do an ECG to check for this. You may have a fast or unusual heartbeat. If you feel any changes in your heartbeat, tell your doctor or nurse **right away**.
4. You may get a headache. Please ask your cancer care team what you can take for this.

5. Mild constipation may occur after treatment begins. Be sure to drink more fluids and increase the amount of 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 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.
6. You may feel very tired, also known as fatigue. Over time, fatigue could 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.
7. If you develop a new or worsening cough or shortness of breath, tell your cancer care team.
8. 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.**
9. Taste changes may occur. Foods may taste different.
10. Skin changes, such as dryness or a rash on your body, may occur. Ask your cancer care team what lotions or creams you may use.

### 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: