



Streptozocin (Zanosar®)

("STREP-toe-ZOE-sin")

How this drug is given: by vein (IV)

Purpose: to stop the growth of cancer cells in pancreatic cancer and other cancers

Things that may occur during or within hours of each treatment

1. If the drug leaks out of the vein into the tissue while it is being given, it can cause harm. This is called *extravasation*. If you feel any burning or tingling in the area of your IV, **please 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 doctor or nurse immediately if you experience any of those symptoms.**

2. You may have nausea and vomiting. Nausea may start up to 24 hours after the drug is given and may last for several days. You will be given medicine to help with this.

Things that may occur a few days to weeks later

1. Your kidneys could be hurt by this drug and not work as well. It is very important that you drink 2 to 3 quarts (about 12 glasses) of fluid a day for 2 to 3 days after treatment. Your kidneys will be watched closely with blood and urine tests.
2. 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
 - Platelets, which help clot the blood to stop bleeding

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 doctor or nurse right away.**

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

- Fertility and related precautions:
 - It is still very important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug may be harmful to an unborn baby.
 - Men may become sterile and may want to think about sperm banking prior to chemotherapy.
 - 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.
 - If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your doctor or nurse.

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.

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: