



Vinblastine (Velban®) (“vin-BLAS-teen”)

How drug is given: by vein (IV)

Purpose: Treatment of lymphoma, testicular cancer, choriocarcinoma, breast cancer, bladder cancer, renal cell cancer, and other cancers, as well as certain blood disorders

Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment

1. Mild to moderate nausea, vomiting, and loss of appetite may occur. You may be given medicine to help with this.
2. 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 near the IV, please **tell your cancer care team 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 immediately if you experience any of these symptoms.**

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 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 (39°C) or higher**, chills, a cough, or any bleeding problems, **tell your cancer care team right away.**

2. Mild constipation may occur after treatment begins. Please increase your fluid intake 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 (Senakot®), may be helpful. If these do not help within 48 hours, tell you cancer care team. Do not use bulk-forming laxatives, such as Metamucil®, without first talking with your cancer care team.

3. Your blood pressure may go up. If this happens, you may be given medication to help with this. If you have headaches or dizziness, **tell your cancer care team right away.**
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Bone pain or jaw pain may occur. Ask your cancer care team what medicine or treatment can help.
7. You may lose some feeling, or have tingling or burning 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 trouble walking. Peripheral neuropathy should get better over time when the drug is stopped.

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

- **Fertility:**
 - It is very important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug could harm an unborn baby.
 - Men can 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.
 - 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 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 take other medications. Please talk 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: