



## Vincristine (Oncovin®)

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

**Purpose:** Treatment of leukemia, sarcoma, Wilm's Tumor, Hodgkin lymphoma, neuroblastoma, brain tumors, and other cancers

### Things that may occur during or within hours after each treatment

1. 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, **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 cancer care team immediately if you experience any of these symptoms.**

2. Some patients may have mild nausea. Your cancer care team may prescribe drugs to help you with this.

### Things that may occur a few days to weeks after treatment

1. 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. Peripheral neuropathy should get better over time when the drug is stopped. Care should be taken with sharp objects, use handrails to avoid falls, and wear supportive shoes.
2. Bone pain may occur because the drug is working inside your bones. Tylenol® or other pain relievers may help.
3. 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 (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.

4. You may have blurred vision or notice other changes in your vision. Talk to cancer care team about what might help.
5. You may get mouth sores 7 to 10 days after this drug is given. Be sure to keep your mouth clean. Use a soft-bristle toothbrush for brushing your teeth. You may have a burning feeling and redness inside the mouth or on the lips. Use a baking soda mouth rinse 4 or 5 times a day.

**Mouth Rinse Recipe:**

Mix: 1 tsp **salt or baking soda** with 8 oz. glass of **water**

Other mouth rinses may be ordered by your doctor. Do not use mouthwashes that have alcohol in them because they will dry out the mouth. If you cannot eat or swallow because of this, tell your doctor or nurse. Check with your doctor before having any dental work done.

6. Some or all of your hair may fall out around 3 to 4 weeks after treatment starts. You may lose body hair, including facial hair, as well as hair on your head. You may want to buy a wig before hair loss begins. Hair may grow back during treatment.
7. Some patients may feel very tired, also known as fatigue. You may need to rest or take naps more often. Mild to moderate exercise can also be helpful in maintaining your energy. Talk with your cancer care team.

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

**Fertility:**

- It is still very important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug could harm 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.
- 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.*

*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: