



# NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

*the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West*

## **Aredia®**

**Generic name:** Pamidronate

### **Drug type:**

Aredia is a supportive care drug in the category of bisphosphonates. It is also used to treat hypercalcemia (high blood calcium).

### **How Aredia is given:**

- As an infusion into the vein (intravenous, IV).

### **Side effects of Aredia:**

Important things to remember about the side effects of Aredia:

- Most people do not experience all of the side effects listed
- Side effects are almost always reversible and will usually go away after treatment is complete
- There are many options to help minimize or prevent side effects

### **The following side effects are common for patients receiving Aredia:**

- Flu-like symptoms
- Mild fever sometimes accompanied by malaise, chills, fatigue and flushing; usually occurs only with the first treatment with Aredia

### **These are less common side effects of patients receiving Aredia:**

- Infusion site reaction with redness, pain swelling at IV site
- Bone, muscle or joint pain
- Nausea and vomiting
- Headache
- Blood test abnormality: low magnesium level

Osteonecrosis of the jaw has been reported rarely in patients with cancer receiving treatment regimens including bisphosphonates. Many of the reported cases were associated with dental procedures such as removal of a tooth. Many had signs of local infection including infection in the bone. A dental examination with appropriate preventative dentistry should be considered prior to treatment with Aredia. Invasive dental procedures should be avoided during treatment.

## **When to contact your doctor or health care provider:**

Seek emergency help ***immediately*** and notify your health care provider, if you experience the following symptoms:

- Shortness of breath, wheezing, difficulty breathing, closing up of the throat, swelling of facial features, hives (possible allergic reaction)

Contact your health care provider ***immediately***, day or night, if you should experience any of the following symptoms:

- Unusual muscle twitching or spasms (symptom of hypercalcemia)
- Confusion (symptom of hypercalcemia)
- Fever of 101° F chills (possible signs of infection)
- Shortness of breath, chest pain or discomfort

The following symptoms require medical attention, but are not an emergency. Contact your health care provider ***within 24 hours*** of noticing any of the following:

- Vomiting (more than 4-5 episodes within a 24 hour period)
- Nausea that interferes with eating and is not relieved by medications prescribed by your doctor
- Constipation unrelieved by laxative use
- Loss of appetite
- Fatigue and extreme tiredness (unable to perform self care activities)
- Feelings of confusion
- Unable to eat or drink for 24 hours or have signs of dehydration: tiredness, thirst, dry mouth, dark and decrease amount of urine, or dizziness

**Always inform your health care provider if you experience any unusual symptoms.**