



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Atra[®]

Generic name: Tretinoin

Drug type:

Atra is an anti-cancer/cytotoxic chemotherapy drug. It is classified as a retinoid agent.

How Atra is given:

- ATRA is given by mouth (in capsule form).
- Take ATRA with food.

Side effects of Atra:

Important things to remember about the side effects of Atra:

- 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 Atra:

- Retinoid toxicity: Headache, fever, dry skin, dry mucous membranes (mouth, nose), bone pain, nausea and vomiting, rash, mouth sores, itching, sweating, eyesight changes
- Flu-like symptoms: malaise, chills
- Bleeding problems
- Infections
- Swelling of feet or ankles
- Pain (bone and joint pain, chest discomfort)
- Abdominal pain

These are less common side effects for patients receiving Atra:

- Weight increase
- Heart rate irregularities
- Flushing
- Poor appetite
- Weight loss
- Earache or feeling of fullness in the ears
- Diarrhea
- Dizziness
- Constipation
- Numbness and tingling in hands and feet

- Anxiety
- Heartburn
- Low blood pressure
- Insomnia
- Depression
- High blood pressure
- Confusion

When to contact your doctor or health care provider:

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

- Fever of 101° F or higher, chills (possible signs of infection)
- Difficulty breathing, sudden weight gain, swelling, vision changes
- Any signs of bleeding, including black or tarry stools, or blood in your stools or urine
- Severe abdominal pain

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

- Nausea (interferes with ability to eat and unrelieved with prescribed medications)
- Vomiting (vomiting more than 4-5 times in a 24-hour period)
- Mouth sores (painful redness, swelling or ulcers)
- Diarrhea (4-6 episodes in a 24-hour period)
- Constipation unrelieved by laxative use
- Signs of infection such as redness or swelling, pain on swallowing, coughing up mucous, or painful urination
- Swelling of the feet or ankles
- Sudden weight gain
- Bone or joint pain
- Yellowing of the skin or eyes

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