



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Azacitidine

Trade names: Vidaza®

Drug type: Azacitidine is an anti-cancer/cytotoxic chemotherapy drug.

How this drug is given:

- As a once-a-day subcutaneous (under the skin) injection or as an infusion (intravenous IV)

Side effects:

Important things to remember about the side effects of azacitidine:

- 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 azacitidine:

- Nausea
- Low red blood cell count
- Low platelet count and bruising
- Vomiting
- Fever
- Low white blood cell count
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue
- Injection site redness
- Constipation

These are less common side effects for patients receiving azacitidine:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Weakness
- Chills
- Injection site pain
- Joint and muscle pain
- Headache
- Poor appetite
- Sore throat
- Back pain
- Confusion
- Dizziness

- Swelling in ankles
- Chest pain
- Nosebleed
- Weight loss
- Abdominal pain
- Rash
- Anxiety
- Low potassium
- Upper respiratory infection
- Itching
- Depression
- Difficulty sleeping

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)

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:

- Nausea (interferes with ability to eat and unrelieved with prescribed medication)
- Vomiting (vomiting more than 4-5 times in a 24 hour period)
- Diarrhea (4-6 episodes in a 24-hour period)
- Unusual bleeding or bruising
- Black or tarry stool or blood in your stools
- Blood in the urine
- Extreme fatigue (unable to carry on self-care activities)
- Constipation unrelieved by laxative use
- Swelling of the feet or ankles. Sudden weight gain
- Signs of infection such as redness or swelling, pain on swallowing, coughing up mucous, or painful urination
- 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.