



# NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

*the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West*

## **Bleomycin**

**Trade name:** Blenoxane<sup>®</sup>

### **Drug type:**

Bleomycin is an anti-cancer

### **How bleomycin is given:**

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

### **Side effects of bleomycin:**

Important things to remember about the side effects of bleomycin:

- 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 bleomycin:**

- Fever and chills
- Skin reactions: redness, darkening of the skin, stretch marks on the skin, skin peeling, thickening of the skin, ulceration
- Nail thickening, nail banding
- Hair loss

### **These are less common side effects for patients receiving bleomycin:**

- Nausea and vomiting
- Poor appetite and weight loss
- Mouth sores
- Lung problems: pneumonitis, rarely pulmonary fibrosis. The incidence of lung problems increases with age and pre-existing lung conditions. There is a maximum lifetime dose of bleomycin. Your health care professional will monitor the amount of bleomycin you receive as well as your lung function during treatment.

### **Rare but significant side effects may include:**

- Severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) immediate or delayed for several hours. You will be monitored closely for any signs of allergic reaction (rash, flushing, lowered blood pressure, difficulty breathing).

## **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)
- 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
- Pain or burning with urination
- Extreme fatigue (unable to carry on self-care activities)
- Mouth sores (painful redness, swelling or ulcers)
- Swelling, redness and/or pain in one leg or arm and not the other
- Yellowing of the skin or eyes
- Cough, shortness of breath

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