



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Chlorambucil

Trade name: Leukeran[®]

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

How this drug is given:

- Chlorambucil is given by mouth as a coated tablet.
- Take 1 hour before or 2 hours after meals.

Side effects:

Important things to remember about the side effects of chlorambucil:

- 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 chlorambucil:

- Low blood counts; white and red blood cells and platelets may temporarily decrease.

These are less common side effects for patients receiving chlorambucil:

- Nausea and vomiting
- Skin rash
- Increases in blood tests measuring liver function. These return to normal once treatment is discontinued

The following side effects are rare for patients receiving chlorambucil, discuss any concerns regarding these with your health care professional:

- Increased risk of developing a secondary malignancy such as an acute leukemia, with long-term use of this drug
- Your fertility, meaning your ability to conceive or father a child, may be affected by chlorambucil
- Pulmonary toxicity (damage to the lungs) has occurred in higher, long term (> 6 months) doses of chlorambucil. This is a relatively rare event.

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:

- Skin rash
- Nausea (interferes with ability to eat and unrelieved with prescribed medication)
- Vomiting (vomiting more than 4-5 times in a 24 hour period)
- Unusual bleeding or bruising
- Black or tarry stool or blood in your stools or urine
- Shortness of breath, persistent cough
- Yellowing of eyes or skin, change in color of stools or urine
- Extreme fatigue (unable to carry on self-care activities)

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