



# NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

*the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West*

## Cladribine

**Trade name:** Leustatin<sup>®</sup>

**Other names:** 2-CdA

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

### How this drug is given:

- Cladribine is administered by infusion through a vein (intravenous, IV)

### Side effects:

Important things to remember about the side effects of cladribine:

- 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 cladribine:

- Fever
- Low white blood cell count
- Low red blood cell count

### These are less common side effects for patients receiving cladribine:

- Nausea (mild), vomiting
- Skin rash
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Skin reaction (redness, itching) at IV infusion site
- Poor appetite
- Headache
- Low platelet count
- Constipation
- Cough

**Note:** You will be considered to be at an increased risk of developing infections for up to one year after taking cladribine.

## **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, or 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:

- Extreme fatigue (unable to carry on self-care activities)
- 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
- Constipation not relieved by laxative use

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