



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Decitabine

Trade name: Dacogen[®]

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

How this drug is given:

- As an infusion into the vein (intravenous or IV).

Side effects:

Important things to remember about the side effects of decitabine:

- You will not get all of the side effects mentioned below.
- Side effects are often predictable in terms of their onset, duration, and severity.
- Side effects are almost always reversible and will usually go away after therapy is complete.
- Side effects are quite manageable. There are many options to minimize or prevent them.

The following side effects are common for patients receiving decitabine:

- Low blood counts. Your white and red blood cells and platelets may temporarily decrease. This can put you at increased risk for infection, anemia and/or bleeding, and may increase need for blood or platelet transfusions.
- Fatigue
- Fever
- Nausea
- Cough
- Constipation
- Diarrhea
- High blood glucose levels
- Heartburn

These are less common side effects for patients receiving decitabine:

- Headache
- Difficulty sleeping
- Swelling
- Chills
- Bruising
- Rash
- Dizziness

- Generalized aches and pains
- Cardiac murmur
- Poor appetite
- Sore throat
- Abdominal pain
- Mouth sores
- Drowsiness
- Confusion
- Anxiety

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 100.5° 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)

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