



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Desferal®

Generic name: Deferoxamine

Drug type: Desferal helps to remove excess iron from the body. This is necessary for patients who have received multiple blood transfusions.

How Desferal is given:

- Desferal is administered through a vein (intravenous, IV), as a continuous infusion.

Side effects of Desferal:

Important things to remember about the side effects of Desferal:

- Most people do not experience all of the side effects listed.
- Side effects are almost always reversible and will go away after treatment is complete.
- There are many options to help minimize or prevent side effects.

The following side effects have been experienced rarely by patients receiving Desferal:

- Rash
- Diarrhea
- Nausea/vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Leg cramps
- Difficulty urinating
- Fever
- Headache

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)
- Difficulty breathing, sudden weight gain, swelling, vision changes
- Severe abdominal pain

The following symptoms require medical attention, but are not emergency situations. Contact your health care provider ***within 24 hours*** of noticing any of the following:

- Nausea (interferes with ability to eat and unrelieved with prescribed medications)
- Vomiting (vomiting more than 4-5 times in a 24-hour period)
- Mouth sores (painful redness, swelling or ulcers)

- Diarrhea (4-6 episodes in a 24-hour period)
- Constipation unrelieved by laxative use
- Any signs of bleeding, including black or tarry stools, or blood in your stools or urine
- Signs of infection such as redness or swelling, pain on swallowing, coughing up mucous, or painful urination
- Swelling of the feet or ankles
- Sudden weight gain

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