



# NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

*the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West*

## **Eloxatin<sup>®</sup>**

**Generic name:** Oxaliplatin

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

### **How Eloxatin is given:**

- Eloxatin is given through an infusion into a vein (intravenous, IV).

### **Side effects of Eloxatin:**

Important things to remember about the side effects of Eloxatin:

- 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.

### **Infusion related side effects of Eloxatin:**

- The feeling of difficulty swallowing, shortness of breath, jaw spasm, abnormal tongue sensation and feeling of chest pressure. This has been reported rarely (<5%). It generally starts within hours of Eloxatin infusion and often occurs upon exposure to cold. Avoiding exposure to cold helps to prevent this adverse reaction.

### **The following side effects are common for patients receiving Eloxatin:**

- Numbness and tingling and cramping of the hands or feet often triggered by cold. This symptom will generally lessen or go away between treatments, however as the number of treatments increase the numbness and tingling will take longer to lessen or go away. Your health care professional will monitor this symptom with you and adjust your dose accordingly.
- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Mouth sores
- 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.
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite

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

- Constipation
- Fever
- Generalized pain
- Headache

- Cough
- Temporary increases in blood tests measuring liver function.
- Allergic reaction: a rare side effect, however, call for help immediately if you suddenly have difficulty breathing, your throat feels like it is closing, or chest pain. Other signs of allergic reaction include rash, hives, sudden cough, or swelling of the lips or tongue.

**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)
- Shortness of breath, chest pain or discomfort, jaw pain, pain or tingling in your arms

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)
- Unusual bleeding or bruising
- Black or tarry stools, or blood in your stools or urine
- Diarrhea (4-6 episodes in a 24-hour period)
- Severe abdominal pain
- Mouth sores (painful redness, swelling or ulcers)
- Signs of infection such as redness or swelling, pain on swallowing, coughing up mucous, or painful urination
- Severe numbness, pain in your joints or muscles
- Constipation unrelieved by laxative use
- Extreme fatigue (unable to carry on self-care activities)
- Unable to eat or drink for 24 hours or have signs of dehydration: tiredness, thirst, dry mouth, dark and decreased amount of urine, or dizziness

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