



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Mesna

Trade name: Mesnex[®]

Drug type: Mesna is a drug used to reduce the undesired side effects of certain chemotherapy drugs. It is referred to as a chemoprotectant.

How this drug is given:

- Mesna is given through an infusion into a vein (intravenous, IV). Mesna is given with or after the chemotherapy drug has been given.
- As a pill by mouth. Recommended that it is taken with strong tasting liquid to mask the taste. If not taken as tablet, solution is made using carbonated beverage, juice or milk.

Side effects:

Important things to remember about the side effects of mesna:

- 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 mesna:

- Bad taste when taken by mouth
- Vomiting, caused by the bad taste of the drug when taken by mouth

When to contact your doctor or health care provider:

Seek emergency help ***immediately*** and notify your health care provider, if you experience the following symptoms:

- Shortness of breath, wheezing, difficulty breathing, closing up of the throat, swelling of facial features, hives (possible allergic reaction)

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)
- Blood in the urine
- Pain or burning with urination

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