



# NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

*the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West*

## **Mustargen ®**

**Generic name:** Mechlorethamine

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

### **How Mustargen is given:**

- Mustargen is given through an infusion into a vein (intravenous, IV).
- Mustargen is a vesicant. A vesicant is a chemical that causes extensive tissue damage and blistering if it escapes from the vein. If you notice redness or swelling at the IV site while you are receiving Mustargen, alert your nurse immediately.

### **Side effects of Mustargen:**

Important things to remember about the side effects of Mustargen:

- 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 taking Mustargen:**

- Low blood counts; white and red blood cells and platelets may temporarily decrease.
- Nausea and vomiting. Usually occurs within first 3 hours after drug administration.
- Hair loss
- Mouth sores
- Darkening of veins used for infusion
- Redness, dryness, irritation with topical use
- Loss of fertility/ability to conceive or father a child may be affected by Mustargen. Discuss this issue with your health care provider.

### **These are less common side effects of patients receiving Mustargen:**

- Fever
- Diarrhea
- Poor appetite
- Taste changes (metallic taste)
- Ringing in the ears
- Abnormal blood tests: increased uric acid levels

### **Delayed effects of Mustargen:**

- There is a slight risk of developing a blood cancer such as leukemia after taking Mustargen. Talk to your doctor about this risk.

## **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)

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 or urine
- Extreme fatigue (unable to carry on self-care activities)
- Mouth sores (painful redness, swelling or ulcers)
- Swelling, redness and/or pain in one leg or arm and not the other
- Signs of infection such as redness or swelling, pain on swallowing, coughing up mucous, or painful urination

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