



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Mylotarg®

Generic name: Gemtuzumab Ozogamicin

Drug type: Mylotarg is a monoclonal antibody.

How this drug is given:

- Gemtuzumab is given through an infusion into a vein (intravenous, IV)
- You may receive medications before the infusion to reduce allergic reactions.

Side effects:

Important things to remember about the side effects of gemtuzumab ozogamicin:

- 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 include:

- Infusion-related reaction: Occur within the first 24 hours after the infusion and most commonly during the first week of treatment. Symptoms include: fever and chills, low blood pressure, and/or shortness of breath.
- Premedication is given to reduce the incidence of infusion-related reactions.
- Occasionally, infusion-related reactions can be severe including shortness of breath, wheezing, difficulty breathing, closing up of the throat, swelling of facial features, and/or hives. Patients will be carefully monitored for this type of allergic reaction.

The following side effects are common for patients receiving gemtuzumab ozogamicin:

- 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.
- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Fever
- Chills
- Poor appetite
- Weakness
- Shortness of breath
- Blood test abnormalities (low potassium)

These are less common for patients receiving gemtuzumab ozogamicin:

- Swelling of the face, hands, or feet
- Headache
- Pain
- Rash, petechiae, or bruising
- Abdominal pain

- Mouth sores
- Constipation
- High blood pressure or low blood pressure
- Back pain
- Increases in blood tests measuring liver function- they return to normal once treatment is discontinued
- Rapid heart beat
- Depression
- Joint pain
- Inflammation of the nose or throat
- Tumor lysis syndrome- occurs when large amounts of cancerous cells are rapidly killed by the therapy. These cells release uric acid, potassium and phosphorus into the blood stream. Tumor lysis syndrome can lead to kidney failure. Tumor lysis syndrome usually occurs within 24 - 48 hours of therapy.

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).

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

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 stools, or blood in your stools
- Blood in the urine
- Rapid heart beat
- Extreme fatigue (unable to carry on self-care activities)
- Mouth sores (painful redness, swelling or ulcers)
- Yellowing of the skin or eyes
- Swelling of the feet or ankles/sudden weight gain
- Signs of infection such as redness or swelling, pain on swallowing, coughing up mucous, or painful urination
- Unable to eat or drink for 24 hours or signs of dehydration: tiredness, thirst, dry mouth, dark and decrease amount of urine, or dizziness
- Depressed (interfering with your ability to carry on your regular activities)

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