



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Neumega[®]

Generic name: Oprevelkin

Drug type: Neumega is a biologic response modifier/cytokine

How Neumega is given:

- Neumega is given by subcutaneous (the layer between the skin and muscle) injection.
- Neumega is usually given 6-24 hours after chemotherapy.
- Neumega is generally given on a daily basis. The number of days you receive the injection varies.

Side effects of Neumega:

Important things to remember about the side effects of Neumega:

- 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 Neumega:

- Swelling/water retention - most common in the hands, feet and ankles
- Nausea and vomiting
- Mouth sores
- Diarrhea
- Shortness of breath

These are less common side effects of patients receiving Neumega:

- Headache
- Fever
- Rapid heartbeat/palpitations
- Dizziness
- Insomnia
- Cough
- Inflammation of the nose and throat
- Rash
- Eye infection
- Bone or joint pain
- Temporary low red blood count - will resolve on its own within a week after neumega is discontinued

A **serious, but very uncommon** side effect of oprevelkin is "capillary leak syndrome" or "vascular leak syndrome." Capillary leak syndrome is a potentially serious disease in which fluids within the vascular system (veins and capillaries) leaks into the tissue outside the bloodstream. This results in low blood pressure and poor blood flow to the internal organs.

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)
- Dizziness (especially when changing position), sudden swelling or rapid weight gain, little or no urine output (for 8-12 hours), shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, irregular heartbeat, or chest pain.

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
- Mouth sores (painful redness, swelling or ulcers)
- 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

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