



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Pentostatin

Trade names: Nipent®

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

How this drug is given:

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

Side effects:

Important things to remember about the side effects of pentostatin:

- You will not get all of the side effects mentioned below.
- Side effects are almost always reversible and will usually go away after therapy is complete.
- Side effects are quite manageable. There are many options to minimize or prevent them.

The following side effects are common for patients receiving pentostatin:

- Nausea and vomiting
- Low blood counts; white and red blood cells and platelets may temporarily decrease
- Skin rash
- Fever
- Fatigue

These are less common side effects for patients receiving pentostatin:

- Itching
- Cough
- Muscle aches
- Chills
- Headache
- Diarrhea
- Abdominal pain
- Anorexia
- Weakness
- Upper respiratory infection
- Mouth sores
- Shortness of breath

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, difficulty breathing

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
- Blood in the urine
- Pain or burning with urination
- Extreme fatigue (unable to carry on self-care activities)
- Mouth sores (painful redness, swelling or ulcers)

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