



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Procarbazine

Trade Name: Matulane[®]

Drug type:

Procarbazine is an anti-cancer/cytotoxic chemotherapy drug.

How procarbazine is given:

- Procarbazine is taken in capsule form by mouth.

Side effects of procarbazine:

Important things to remember about the side effects of Procarbazine:

- 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 procarbazine:

- Low white blood cell count (can put you at increased risk for infection)
- Low platelet count (can put you at increased risk for bleeding)
- Nausea and vomiting (may occur early in therapy)
- Poor appetite

These are less common side effects for patients receiving Procarbazine:

- Hair loss
- Mouth sores
- Diarrhea
- Constipation
- Flu-like symptoms (fever, chills, generalized aches and pains)- usually in the first days of treatment then resolves
- Central neurotoxicity: weakness, loss of balance, headache, unsteadiness, drowsiness or dizziness
- Hypersensitivity reaction: rash, itching, hives, flushing.
- Loss of fertility/ability to conceive or father a child may be affected by Procarbazine. Discuss this issue with your health care provider.

Delayed effects of procarbazine:

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

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)

The following symptoms require medical attention, but are not emergency situations. Contact your health care provider ***within 24 hours*** of noticing any of the following:

- Unusual bleeding or bruising
- Black or tarry stool or blood in your stools or urine
- 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)
- Constipation unrelieved by laxative use
- Severe abdominal pain
- Mouth sores (painful redness, swelling or ulcers)
- Painful urination
- Severe numbness, bone or joint pain
- Feeling faint or dizzy
- Extreme fatigue (unable to carry on self-care activities)
- 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.