



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Streptozocin

Trade names: Zanosar®

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

How this drug is given:

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

Side effects:

Important things to remember about the side effects of streptozocin:

- 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 streptozocin:

- Nausea and vomiting. This may begin from 1 to 3 hours after you receive the injection, and last up to 12 hours. You will be given anti-nausea medication prior to receiving this drug.
- This drug may affect your kidneys. Your kidney function will be closely monitored.

These are less common side effects of patients receiving streptozocin:

- Diarrhea
- Low blood sugar.
- Low blood counts (white blood cells, red blood cells and platelets)
- Increases in blood tests measuring liver function. These return to normal once treatment is discontinued.

Delayed effects:

There is a slight risk of developing a blood cancer such as leukemia after taking streptozocin. 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)
- No urination in a 12 hour period. Swelling of the feet or ankles, sudden weight gain
- Yellowing of the skin or eyes
- 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 have signs of dehydration: tiredness, thirst, dry mouth, dark and decrease amount of urine, or dizziness
- Increased thirst, drinking and urination, waking up at night to urinate

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