



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Velcade®

Generic name: Bortezomib

Drug type:

Velcade is a targeted therapy. It is classified as a proteasome inhibitor.

How Velcade is given:

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

Side effects of Velcade:

Important things to remember about the side effects of Velcade:

- 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 Velcade:

- Fatigue, generalized weakness
- Numbness and tingling of the hands and feet
- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Poor appetite
- Constipation
- Low platelet count
- Fever
- Low red blood cell count

These are less common side effects of patients receiving Velcade:

- Headache
- Difficulty sleeping
- Joint pains and muscle aches
- Swelling of the face, hands, feet or legs
- Low white blood cell count
- Shortness of breath
- Dizziness
- Rash
- Dehydration
- Upper respiratory tract infection
- Cough

- Bone pain
- Anxiety
- Muscle cramps
- Heartburn
- Abdominal pain
- Low blood pressure
- Itching
- Blurring of vision

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, wheezing, difficulty breathing, closing up of the throat, swelling of facial features, hives (possible allergic reaction).

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)
- Constipation unrelieved by laxative use
- Unusual bleeding or bruising
- Black or tarry stool or blood in your stools
- Blood in the urine
- Extreme fatigue (unable to carry on self-care activities)
- New or worsening symptoms of peripheral neuropathy
- Swelling, redness and/or pain in one leg or arm and not the other
- 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 have signs of dehydration: tiredness, thirst, dry mouth, dark and decrease amount of urine, or dizziness

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