



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Vincristine

Trade Names: Oncovin[®], Vincasar Pfs[®]

Drug Type:

Vincristine is an anti-cancer/cytotoxic chemotherapy drug.

How vincristine is given:

- Vincristine is given through an infusion into a vein (intravenous, IV).
- Vincristine 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 Vincristine, alert your nurse immediately.

Vincristine side effects:

Important things to remember about the side effects of Vincristine:

- 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 Vincristine:

- Hair loss (in 20-70% of patients) may be partial or complete hair loss

These are less common side effects for patients receiving Vincristine:

- Constipation
- Low blood counts; white and red blood cells and platelets may temporarily decrease.
- Abdominal cramps
- Weight loss
- Nausea and vomiting
- Mouth sores
- Diarrhea
- Loss of appetite
- Taste changes
- Numbness and tingling of the hands and feet

When to contact your doctor or health care provider:

Contact your health care provider ***immediately***, day or night, if you experience any of the following symptoms:

- Fever of 101°F or higher, chills (possible signs of infection)
- Urinary retention (inability to urinate)

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
- Constipation
- Diarrhea (4-6 episodes in a 24-hour period)
- Nausea (interferes with ability to eat and unrelieved with prescribed medications)
- Vomiting (vomiting more than 4-5 times in a 24-hour period)
- Severe abdominal pain
- Lip or mouth sores
- Painful urination
- Bone pain

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