



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Denosumab

Trade names: Xgeva[®]

Drug type: Denosumab increases osteoclast activity in the bone

How this drug is given:

- As a once-a-month subcutaneous (under the skin) injection

Side effects:

Important things to remember about the side effects of denosumab:

- 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 denosumab:

- Nausea
- Fatigue
- Low levels of calcium and phosphorus in the blood

These are less common side effects for patients receiving denosumab:

- Diarrhea
- Headache
- Shortness of breath
- Cough

Osteonecrosis of the jaw has been reported rarely in patients receiving denosumab. Many of the reported cases were associated with dental procedures such as removal of a tooth. Many had signs of local infection including infection in the bone. A dental examination with appropriate preventative dentistry should be considered prior to treatment. Invasive dental procedures should be avoided during treatment.

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
- Blood in the urine
- Extreme fatigue (unable to carry on self-care activities)
- Constipation unrelieved by laxative use
- 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.