



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Zometa®

Generic name: Zoledronic Acid

Drug type:

Zometa is a bisphosphonate derivative.

How Zometa is given:

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

Side effects of Zometa:

Important things to remember about the side effects of Zometa:

- 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 Zometa:

- Fever usually mild and short lived
- Flu-like symptoms; mild fever sometimes accompanied by malaise, chills, fatigue and flushing.

These are less common side effects for patients receiving Zometa:

- Flu-like symptoms with redness, pain swelling at IV site
- Bone, muscle or joint pain
- Nausea and vomiting/loss of appetite
- Blood tests indicating worsening kidney function- blood levels will be closely monitored
- Headache

Osteonecrosis of the jaw has been reported rarely in patients with cancer receiving treatment regimens including bisphosphonates. 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:

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 the following:

- Fever of 101°F or higher, chills, sore throat (possible signs of infection)
- Shortness of breath, chest pain or discomfort

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:

- Vomiting (more than 4-5 episodes within a 24 hour period)
- Nausea that interferes with eating and is not relieved by medications prescribed by your doctor
- Constipation unrelieved by laxative use
- Loss of appetite
- Fatigue and extreme tiredness (unable to perform self care activities)
- Feelings of confusion
- Unable to eat or drink for 24 hours or 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.