

## Medication Information Sheet

## procarbazine (pro-KAR-ba-zeen)

*This document provides general information about your medication. It does not replace the advice of your health care professional. Always discuss your therapy with your health care professional and refer to the package insert for more details.*

**Other Name:** Matulane®

**Appearance:** Gelatin capsule

### What is this medication for?

- For treating lymphomas and cancer arising in the brain.

### What should I do before I have this medication?

- Tell your doctor if you have/had significant medical condition(s), especially if you have / had radiation, alcoholism or any allergies.
- Procarbazine may harm the unborn baby.
- Let your doctor know if you are breastfeeding, pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- People who have cancer are at a higher risk of developing other cancers or blood clots. Also, some cancer medications may increase these risks. You should discuss these with your doctor.

### How will this medication affect sex, pregnancy and breastfeeding?

- Procarbazine should not be used if you are pregnant. If there is ANY chance that you or your partner may become pregnant, you and your partner together must: ► **Use 2 effective forms of birth control at the same time** while taking this drug. Keep using birth control until **6 months** after the last dose (general recommendation). Discuss with your healthcare team.
- Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant.
- Do not breastfeed while taking this drug.
- Effects on Fertility: Yes

### How is this medication given?

- Take it exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the instructions.

- Swallow whole with a glass of water, with or without food.
- Take the dose at about the same time each day.
- Do not crush or open the capsules.
- If you miss a dose, take it if it is within 12 hours from the missed dose, otherwise skip and take your next dose as scheduled. Do not double the dose to make up for the forgotten one.

## What else do I need to know while on this medication?

- This medication can interact with other medications and can result in the treatment not working as well or cause severe side effects.
- Make sure your health care team knows about all your medications (prescription, over-the-counter, herbals and supplements). Check with your health care team before starting or stopping any of them.
- It is very important to follow diet restrictions to avoid food and drinks containing tyramine, caffeine and alcohol (Contact Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 or speak to a dietitian to get more information on the low tyramine diet).
- **DO NOT** drink alcoholic beverages while taking procarbazine, or for 10-14 days after taking the last capsule(s).

## How should I safely store this medication?

- Keep this medication in the original packaging at room temperature in a dry place, away from heat and light. Keep out of sight and reach of children and pets.
- Do not throw out any unused medications at home. Bring them to your pharmacy to be thrown away safely.

## What are the side effects of this medication?

- The following side effects are common or severe. You may not have all of the side effects. Other side effects may occur. If you have any unusual or bothersome symptoms, discuss with your doctor.

Very Common Side Effects (50 or more out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<b>Nightmares, hallucinations, confusion, insomnia</b>	Talk to your health care team if no improvement or if severe
<p><b>Flu-like feeling</b> (fever, chills without signs of infection such as sore throat, cough, or blistering rash on skin)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May happen in hours to days after drug is given / after starting treatment.</li> <li>• These side effects may go away as your body gets used to the drug.</li> <li>• Contact your doctor or nurse if these feelings bother you.</li> <li>• May take acetaminophen (Tylenol®) tablets as needed.</li> </ul>	Talk to your health care team if no improvement or if severe
<p><b>Mouth sores</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain good mouth hygiene. Regular teethbrushing with a soft toothbrush or Toothette®, and regular use of mouthwashes, especially after meals and at bedtime. Use alcohol-free mouthwashes.</li> <li>• Instead, try a homemade mouthwash: Mix 1 teaspoonful of baking soda and 1 teaspoonful of salt in 4 cups (1L) of water.</li> <li>• Avoid hot, spicy, acidic, hard or crunchy foods.</li> <li>• Check with your doctor or nurse as soon as you notice sores in mouth/lips or pain with swallowing. Your doctor may prescribe a prescription</li> </ul>	Talk to your health care team as soon as possible

Very Common Side Effects (50 or more out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p>mouthwash to relieve mouth sores and prevent infection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Also see Mouth Care pamphlet.*</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Unusual bleeding or bruising</b></p> <p>You may have black stools, cough up blood, blood in your urine, purple or red dots on your skin or bleeding that will not stop.</p> <p><b>Fever, chills, infection</b></p> <p>You have a fever if your temperature taken in your mouth (oral temperature) is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>38.3°C (100.9°F) or higher at any time OR</b></li> <li><b>38.0°C (100.4°F) or higher for at least one hour.</b></li> </ul> <p>While you are getting chemotherapy treatments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep a digital thermometer at home and take your temperature if you feel hot or unwell (for example, chills).</li> <li>Avoid taking medications that treat a fever before you take your temperature (for example, Tylenol®, acetaminophen, Advil® or ibuprofen) as they may hide a fever.</li> <li>Do not eat or drink anything hot or cold right before taking your temperature.</li> <li>Wash your hands often.</li> <li>Check with your doctor before getting any vaccines, surgeries or visiting your dentist.</li> </ul> <p><b>If you have a fever, talk to your health care team or go to the closest emergency room.</b></p> <p>See our <a href="#">Neutropenia (Low white blood cell count)</a> pamphlet for more information.</p>	<p>Get emergency medical help right away</p>
<p><b>Nausea and vomiting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May occur in hours to days after the dose is given/ after treatment starts.</li> <li>Drink clear fluids and avoid large meals. Get fresh air and rest.</li> <li>Limit spicy, fried foods or foods with a strong smell.</li> <li>Take anti-nausea drug(s) exactly as directed by your doctor. It is easier to prevent nausea than to treat it.</li> <li>Contact your doctor if nausea lasts more than 1 day or if any vomiting occurs.</li> <li>Also see Nausea &amp; Vomiting pamphlet.*</li> </ul>	<p>Talk to your health care team if no improvement or if severe</p>

Very Common Side Effects (50 or more out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p><b>Tingling, numb toes or fingers, weakness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May slowly return to normal after treatment ends.</li> <li>• Contact your doctor or nurse if you have trouble doing up buttons, writing, picking up small objects, pain, or trouble with movement.</li> </ul>	Talk to your health care team if no improvement or if severe
<p><b>Rash; dry, itchy skin</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensitivity to sunlight (or other lights with UV) occurs rarely (results in rash on exposed areas).</li> <li>• Stay out of the sun; wear sunblock, a hat and cover exposed skin.</li> <li>• Use daily moisturizer.</li> </ul>	Talk to your health care team if no improvement or if severe

Less Common Side Effects (10 to 24 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p><b>Liver problems</b> (yellow skin or eyes, dark urine)</p>	Get emergency medical help right away
<p><b>Lung problems</b> (increased cough, breathing problems, chest pain, coughing blood)</p>	Get emergency medical help right away
<p><b>Pancreas problems</b> (increased pain in centre of belly and may extend to back, appetite or weight loss)</p>	Get emergency medical help right away
<p><b>Heart problems</b> (irregular heartbeat, chest pain, fainting, swelling, shortness of breath)</p>	Get emergency medical help right away
<p><b>Allergic reaction</b> (fever, severe rash, itchiness, swollen face, lip or tongue, chest or throat tightness)</p>	Get emergency medical help right away
<p><b>Blood clot</b> (limb pain or swelling, hardened vein in limb), may occur in lungs (sudden start of coughing, breathing problems, chest pain, coughing blood)</p>	Get emergency medical help right away

For more links on how to manage your symptoms go to [www.cancercareontario.ca/symptoms](http://www.cancercareontario.ca/symptoms).

## procarbazine

*The information set out in the medication information sheets, regimen information sheets, and symptom management information (for patients) contained in the Drug Formulary (the "Formulary") is intended to be used by health professionals and patients for informational purposes only. The information is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, drug interactions or side effects of a certain drug, nor should it be used to indicate that use of a particular drug is safe, appropriate or effective for a given condition.*

*A patient should always consult a healthcare provider if he/she has any questions regarding the information set out in the Formulary. The information in the Formulary is not intended to act as or replace medical advice and should not be relied upon in any such regard. All uses of the Formulary are subject to clinical judgment and actual prescribing patterns may not follow the information provided in the Formulary.*