

Medication Information Sheet

thioguanine (thigh-oh-GWON-een)

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: Lanvis®

Appearance: Greenish-yellow tablet

What is this medication for?

- For treating acute leukemia, a type of blood cancer.

What should I do before I have this medication?

- Tell your doctor if you have or had significant medical condition(s), especially if you have any allergies.
- People who have cancer are at a higher risk of developing other cancers or blood clots. Also, some cancer medications, such as thioguanine, may increase these risks. You should discuss these with your doctor.
- This drug contains a small amount of lactose. If you cannot tolerate lactose, talk to your doctor.

How will this medication affect sex, pregnancy and breastfeeding?

- The use of this medication in men or women may cause harm to the unborn baby if pregnancy occurs. Let your health care team know if you or your partner is pregnant, becomes pregnant during treatment, or if you are breastfeeding
- ► **Use 2 effective forms of birth control at the same time** while taking this drug. Keep using birth control for at least **6 months** after your last dose unless your health care team told you differently. Talk to your health care team to figure out the best method(s) for you and/or your partner.
- Do not breastfeed while using this drug.
- This medication may affect fertility (ability to get pregnant)

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
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as possible, otherwise skip this dose and take your next dose as scheduled. Do not double the dose to make up for the missed dose.

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.
- For mild aches and pain:
 - You may take acetaminophen (Tylenol®) tablets. Ask your health care team about the right dose for you.
 - Ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®), naproxen (Aleve®) or aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid, ASA), including low dose aspirin for heart conditions, may increase your chance of bleeding.
 - Talk to your health care team before you start or stop these medications.
 - If you feel unwell, take your temperature before taking any of these medications. They may hide a fever.
 - **Talk to your health care team or go to the closest emergency room right away if you have a fever.** See the [Fever](#) pamphlet for more information.
- Drinking alcohol and smoking during your treatment may increase some side effects and make your medication less effective. Speak to your health care team about smoking and drinking alcohol while on treatment.

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 have been seen in people using thioguanine with other chemotherapy drugs,

*The most updated version and more symptom control information can be found on: <http://www.cancercare.on.ca/druginfo>

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so some of these effects may be caused by chemotherapy.

You may not have all of the side effects below. You may have side effects that are not listed.

Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
More Common Side Effects	
<p>Diarrhea</p> <p>May happen days to weeks after you get your treatment.</p> <p>If you have diarrhea :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take anti-diarrhea medication if your health care team prescribed it. • Avoid foods or drinks with artificial sweetener (e.g. chewing gum, “diet” drinks), coffee and alcohol. • Eat many small meals and snacks instead of 2 or 3 large meals. • Drink at least 6 to 8 cups of liquids each day. Talk to your health care team if you can’t drink 6-8 cups of liquids each day when you have diarrhea. You may need special liquids with salt and sugar, called Oral Rehydration Therapy. <p>See the Diarrhea pamphlet for more information.</p>	<p>Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe</p>
<p>Rapid killing of cancer cells when you start treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If mild, this may cause gout and joint pains. In some more severe cases, it may cause fevers, kidney problems, confusion and be life-threatening. • Your doctor may prescribe medication to prevent these effects. • Drink plenty of liquids (6 to 8 cups per day, unless you have been told otherwise) and pee frequently. 	<p>Get emergency medical help right away</p>
<p>Mouth sores</p> <p>You may have round, painful, white or gray sores inside your mouth. They can occur on the tongue, lips, gums, or inside your cheeks. In more severe cases they may make it hard to swallow, eat or to brush your teeth. They usually last 1 to 2 weeks.</p> <p>To help prevent mouth sores:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take care of your mouth by gently brushing and flossing regularly. • Rinse your mouth often. Do not use mouthwashes with alcohol. • Instead, try a homemade mouthwash: • Mix 1 teaspoonful of baking soda and 1 teaspoonful of salt in 4 cups (1L) of water. <p>If you have mouth sores:</p>	<p>Contact your health care team as soon as possible</p>

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Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
More Common Side Effects	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check with your health care team as soon as you notice mouth or lip sores or if it hurts to swallow. • Avoid hot, spicy, acidic, hard or crunchy foods. Your doctor may prescribe a mouthwash to relieve mouth sores and prevent infection. <p>See the Mouth Care pamphlet for more information.</p>	
<p>Unusual bleeding or bruising</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>Fever, chills, infection</p> <p>You have a fever if your temperature taken in your mouth (oral temperature) is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38.3°C (100.9°F) or higher at any time OR • 38.0°C (or 100.4°F) or higher for at least one hour. <p>While you are getting treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep a digital thermometer at home and take your temperature if you feel hot or unwell (for example, chills). • 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. • Do not eat or drink anything hot or cold right before taking your temperature. • Wash your hands often. • Check with your doctor before getting any vaccines, surgeries, medical procedures or visiting your dentist. <p>If you have a fever, talk to your health care team or go to the closest emergency room.</p> <p>See our Neutropenia (Low white blood cell count) pamphlet for more information.</p>	<p>Get emergency medical help right away</p>

Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
Less Common Side Effects, but may be Severe	
<p>Low appetite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may not feel like eating or you may lose weight. Try to eat foods that you like and eat small meals throughout the day. You may need to take meal supplements to help keep your weight up. Talk to your health care team if you have a low appetite. See our Loss of appetite pamphlet for more information. 	Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe
<p>Infection of your intestines, tear in your stomach or intestines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may have severe belly cramps or pain, belly tenderness, diarrhea or blood in your poo. If you have a fever i.e. your temperature taken in your mouth (oral temperature) is 38.3°C or 100.9°F or higher at any time OR 38.0°C or 100.4°F or higher for at least one hour (fever) speak to your health care team or go to the closest emergency room right away. 	Get emergency medical help right away
<p>Nausea and vomiting</p> <p>May occur in hours to days after your treatment. It is easier to prevent nausea than to treat it if it happens.</p> <p>To help prevent nausea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take anti-nausea medication(s) as prescribed to you by your doctor. Drink clear liquids and have small meals. Get fresh air and rest. Do not eat spicy, fried foods or foods with a strong smell. Limit caffeine (e.g. coffee, tea) and alcohol. <p>If you have nausea or vomiting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take anti-nausea medication(s) as prescribed to you by your doctor. Contact your health care team if the prescribed anti-nausea medications are not helping to control your nausea and vomiting. <p>Also see Nausea & Vomiting pamphlet for more information.</p>	Contact your healthcare team if nausea lasts more than 48 hours or vomiting lasts more than 24 hours
<p>Skin sensitivity to sunlight</p> <p>Your skin may be more sensitive to the sun. You can have an itchy rash and other skin reactions when you are exposed to the sun.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Try to stay out of the sun if you can. Apply sunscreen with UVA and UVB protection and an SPF of at least 30. Use a lip balm with sunscreen for your lips. When you are in the sun, wear long sleeved shirts, long pants and a hat to 	Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe

Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
Less Common Side Effects, but may be Severe	
protect yourself. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a daily moisturizer on your skin. 	
<p>Rash; dry, itchy skin</p> <p>Rash may be severe in some rare cases and cause your skin to blister or peel. If this happens, get emergency medical help right away.</p> <p>To prevent and treat dry skin,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use skin moisturizer. • Protect your skin from the sun and the cold. • Use sunscreen with UVA and UVB protection and a SPF of at least 30. 	Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe
<p>Liver problems</p> <p>It may cause you to gain weight, have a tender (hurts to touch) right side of your belly or have eyes or skin that may look yellow.</p> <p>You may also have bright red or black/tarry coloured poo, a swollen or painful belly and feel confused or forget things.</p>	Get emergency medical help right away

For more links on how to manage your symptoms go to www.cancercare.on.ca/symptoms.

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.