

Medical Oncology

Drug Information Sheet

Decitabine (Dacogen): a drug to treat your cancer.

How will you get this drug? A Cancer Center nurse will give this drug to you through an IV or your port.

You **MAY OR MAY NOT** experience the side effects listed below

Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
Increased risk for infection due to decreased blood counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid contact with people who have infections, colds or flu. • Wash your hands often. • Report chills or a fever of 100.4° or higher to your doctor right away, day or night. • Report any signs or symptoms of infection, such as cough, burning with urination, skin redness or sores. • Call your doctor before taking any medicine for a fever or chills.
Increased risk for bleeding due to decreased blood counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report signs of bleeding or bruising. • Avoid taking aspirin or aspirin products unless your doctor tells you to take it. • Use soft toothbrush. • Use electric razor. • Talk to your doctor before any scheduled medical or dental procedures. • Call your doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Severe headache. ○ Blood in stools or urine. ○ Bleeding for a long period. ○ Uncontrolled bleeding. ○ Bruising.
Lower than normal red blood cells Anemia	Call you doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ shortness of breath with activity ○ fatigue ○ dizziness ○ fast heartbeat or a heartbeat that does not feel normal ○ headache
Increased blood sugar levels	Call your doctor if you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ have feelings of confusion ○ are feeling more sleepy than normal ○ are more thirsty than normal ○ are more hungry than normal ○ pass urine more often than usual ○ have fast breathing ○ have breath that smells like fruit

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Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
Nausea/vomiting Decreased appetite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take nausea medicine as instructed. Let your doctor know if it is not working for you. • Eat smaller, frequent meals. • Try liquid nutrition supplements (Boost, Ensure). • A dietitian is available to talk with you.
Constipation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink water and other fluids frequently during the day. • Eat foods high in fiber. • Do mild exercise such as walking. • Talk to your pharmacist about over the counter medicines. • Report if over the counter medicines are not working.
Diarrhea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep well hydrated with water or fluids. • Take over the counter anti-diarrhea medicine (Immodium A-D™ or loperamide HCL). Use the “<i>Helpful Tips for Diarrhea after Chemotherapy or Radiation Therapy</i>” instruction sheet. • Call your doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More than 4 loose stools in 24 hours ○ A fever of 100.4° or higher ○ bad stomach pain or cramps ○ dizziness or feel faint ○ bloody stools (dark, tarry or sticky)
Fatigue or weakness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may be more tired than usual or have less energy. • Stay as active as possible, but know it is okay to rest as needed. • Try to do some activity every day. • Plan your activities, and do them at a time of day when you feel more energetic. • Avoid driving or doing other tasks that call for you to be alert.
Fever/shivering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink caffeine free fluids to stay well hydrated. • Report chills or a fever of 100.4° or higher to your doctor right away, day or night. • Report any signs or symptoms of infection, such as cough, burning with urination, skin redness or sores. • Call your doctor before taking any medicine for a fever or chills.

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Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
Cough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take your medicines as prescribed. • Stop smoking and avoid things around you that cause you to cough. • You may try using a humidifier to keep your throat and nasal passages moist if you have a chronic, persistent dry cough. • If it is okay with your doctor, you may try using cough drops or an over the counter cough syrup. • Get plenty of rest and drink plenty of fluids. • Call your doctor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ for a cough that gets worse or will not go away. ○ for a temperature greater than 100.4°. ○ if you have an increase in shortness of breath or trouble breathing. ○ if you have labored and more rapid breathing.
<i>Decitabine (Dacogen)</i> will be in urine and stool for 48 hours.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caregivers will need to handle soiled linens and clothing wearing gloves or using a bag as a barrier. • Keep your soiled items separate from others' dirty laundry and wash right away. • Women who are pregnant should not handle your soiled clothing or linens. • Wash any skin that body waste has touched with soap and water. • You may use the same toilet that you normally use. • If the toilet or toilet seat becomes dirty with urine, stool or vomit, clean the surfaces before other people use the toilet • Wash hands with soap and water after using the toilet. • It is safe to hug and kiss.
Avoid pregnancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if you take it while you are pregnant. If you are pregnant or you get pregnant while taking this drug, call your doctor right away. • Use birth control that you can trust to prevent pregnancy while taking this drug and for 6 months after stopping this drug. • If you or your sex partner gets pregnant while taking this drug or within 6 months after stopping this drug, call your doctor right away. • May cause fertility problems.
These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor.	