

# Medical Oncology

## Drug Information Sheet

**Denosumab (Xgeva):** A treatment your doctor has ordered for you. This medicine is used to slow bone damage caused by cancer cells or to treat high calcium levels in your blood.

**How will you get this drug?** A Cancer Center nurse will give this drug to you subcutaneously (injection) at the cancer center.

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

Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
<b>Low calcium &amp; phosphorus levels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lab work will be checked.</li> <li>• The strength and solidness of your bones will be tested (bone density test).</li> <li>• Take calcium (at least 500 mg) and Vitamin D (400 IU) daily.</li> <li>• Tell your doctor if you have symptoms of low blood calcium:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ spasms, twitches or cramps of your muscles</li> <li>○ numbness or tingling in your fingers, toes or around your mouth</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Call your doctor if you have symptoms of low phosphorus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ changes in eyesight</li> <li>○ feeling confused</li> <li>○ mood changes</li> <li>○ muscle pain or weakness</li> <li>○ shortness of breath or other breathing problems</li> <li>○ trouble swallowing</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Diarrhea</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep well hydrated with water or fluids.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Call your doctor if you have:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ More than 4 loose stools in 24 hours</li> <li>○ A fever of 100.4° or higher</li> <li>○ bad stomach pain or cramps</li> <li>○ dizziness or feel faint</li> <li>○ bloody stools (dark, tarry or sticky)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Nausea/vomiting Decreased appetite</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take nausea medicine as instructed. Let your doctor know if it is not working for you.</li> <li>• Eat smaller, frequent meals.</li> <li>• Try liquid nutritional supplements (Boost, Ensure)</li> <li>• A dietitian is available to talk with you.</li> </ul>

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Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
<b>Fatigue or weakness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You may be more tired than usual or have less energy.</li> <li>Stay as active as possible, but know it is okay to rest as needed.</li> <li>Try to do some activity every day.</li> <li>Plan your activities, and do them at a time of day when you feel more energetic.</li> <li>Avoid driving or doing other tasks that call for you to be alert.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Denosumab (Xgeva)</i> will be in urine and stool for 48 hours.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Caregivers will need to handle soiled linens and clothing wearing gloves or using a bag as a barrier.</li> <li>Keep your soiled items separate from others' dirty laundry and wash right away.</li> <li>Women who are pregnant should not handle your soiled clothing or linens.</li> <li>Wash any skin that body waste has touched with soap and water.</li> <li>You may use the same toilet that you normally use.</li> <li>If the toilet or toilet seat becomes dirty with urine, stool or vomit, clean the surfaces before other people use the toilet</li> <li>Wash hands with soap and water after using the toilet.</li> <li><b>It is safe to hug and kiss.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Avoid pregnancy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Use birth control that you can trust to prevent pregnancy while taking this drug and for <b>5</b> months after stopping this drug.</li> <li>If you or your sex partner gets pregnant while taking this drug or within <b>5</b> months after stopping this drug, call your doctor right away.</li> <li>May cause fertility problems.</li> </ul>

### Less common side effects that may happen

Less common side effects	What to do:
<b>Broken bones after stopping <i>Denosumab (Xgeva)</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After this drug is stopped, the chance of a broken bone is raised. This includes bones in the spine.</li> <li>Do not stop treatment with this drug without talking to your doctor.</li> <li>You are at greater risk if you have osteoporosis</li> </ul>
<b>Rare thigh bone fractures</b>	Call your doctor if you develop new pain in your hip, groin, or thigh.

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<b>Increased risk for infection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid contact with people who have infections, colds or flu.</li> <li>• Wash your hands often.</li> <li>• Report chills or a fever of 100.4° or higher to your doctor right away, day or night.</li> <li>• Report any signs or symptoms of infection, such as cough, burning with urination, skin redness or sores.</li> <li>• Call your doctor before taking any medicine for a fever or chills.</li> </ul>
<b>Osteonecrosis of the jaw</b> Injury to jaw bone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You should see your dentist before getting <i>Denosumab (Xgeva)</i>.</li> <li>• It is important to practice good mouth care.</li> <li>• Before you have dental work, call the Cancer Care Center and talk to your treatment team.</li> <li>• Call you doctor if you have:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ any loose teeth</li> <li>○ tooth pain or swelling</li> <li>○ signs of a mouth infection (sores or drainage)</li> <li>○ jaw pain</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Serious allergic reactions</b>	<p>After you return home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call 911 and go to the Emergency Department right away if you have any symptoms:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ trouble breathing</li> <li>○ chest tightness</li> <li>○ swelling of your face, lips, or tongue</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Call you doctor if you develop:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ a rash or hives</li> <li>○ itching</li> <li>○ fever</li> <li>○ chills</li> <li>○ pain in the abdomen or back</li> <li>○ cough</li> <li>○ runny or stuffy nose</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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Less common side effects	What to do:
<b>High Calcium levels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call your doctor if you::               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ have nausea or vomiting</li> <li>○ have diarrhea</li> <li>○ have bone pain</li> <li>○ have muscle weakness or twitching</li> <li>○ have feelings of confusion</li> <li>○ have an increase in tiredness</li> <li>○ are more thirsty than normal</li> <li>○ have a poor appetite</li> <li>○ are unable to eat/drink for 24 hours</li> <li>○ pass urine more often than usual</li> <li>○ have a headache</li> <li>○ <b>Do not</b> take additional calcium supplements by mouth if you are taking this medicine because of high calcium levels.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Skin rash or itching</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use moisturizing lotions to keep skin hydrated especially after bathing.</li> <li>• Use tepid water, rather than hot water.</li> <li>• Wear loose-fitting cotton clothing</li> <li>• Use over-the-counter anti-inflammation and anti-itch creams (hydrocortisone cream or diphenhydramine)</li> <li>• Apply cool, wet cloth to soothe skin</li> <li>• Avoid using perfumes and cologne.</li> <li>• Avoid rubbing and scratching</li> <li>• Drink water and non-caffeine beverages.</li> <li>• Notify your doctor of rash, itching or swelling. This may occur on the face and can be around your eyes.</li> </ul>
<b>Bone, muscle, joint pain</b>	Use prescribed pain medicine as directed. Call your doctor if the pain is uncontrolled.
<p><b>These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor.</b></p>	