

Medical Oncology

Drug Information Sheet

Temozolomide (Temodar): a drug to treat your cancer.

What should I avoid while receiving *Temozolomide (Temodar)*?

- Do NOT use Echinacea.
- This medicine may contain fd&c blue #2 dye.

Dose and Schedule:

- You will take this medicine by mouth.
- *Temozolomide (Temodar)* should be taken at the same time every day (morning or evening).
- *Temozolomide (Temodar)* may be taken with or without food.
- **To maintain consistent absorption, always take with food or always take on an empty stomach.**
- Take *Temozolomide (Temodar)* on empty stomach or at bedtime if your stomach becomes upset.
- Keep taking this drug as you have been told by your doctor or other health care provider, even if you feel well.
- Swallow the capsules whole with water. Do not crush, open, break, chew or dissolve the medicine in water.
- If you have any unused *Temozolomide (Temodar)*, do not throw it in the trash and do not flush it down the sink or toilet. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about proper disposal of *Temozolomide (Temodar)*.
- *Temozolomide (Temodar)*, drug has many drug interactions. Tell your doctor all the prescription medicines, over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products you are taking.
- Your doctor may change your dose, briefly stop or completely stop treatment with *Temozolomide (Temodar)*, if you have side effects.
- **DO NOT START A NEW CYCLE WITHOUT TALKING TO YOUR DOCTOR FIRST.**
- Capsules should not be opened. If capsules are accidentally opened or damaged, do not inhale contents or allow contents to come into contact with the skin or mucous membranes.
- If the inside contents are touched or they get in the eyes, wash hands or eyes right away.
- If the inside contents are accidentally inhaled, move to fresh air and call your doctor right away.

Medical Oncology

Drug Information Sheet

If you miss a dose of *Temozolomide (Temodar)*:

- Do not take an extra dose or two doses at one time.
- Skip the missed dose and return to normal schedule.
- Take missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If vomiting occurs after taking a dose, do not repeat the dose. Take your next dose of *Temozolomide (Temodar)*, at your next regularly scheduled time to take it.
- Write down if you miss a dose and let your doctor know about any missed doses.

Storage and Handling: This drug can be toxic. Exposure of others to the drug should be limited.

- You will get this drug from a special pharmacy through the mail. We will help you through the process.
- The drug must be kept in a secure place out of reach of children and pets, so no one else can take this drug. Never share *Temozolomide (Temodar)* with anyone else.
- Store *Temozolomide (Temodar)* at room temperature in a dry place and away from light. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Keep in original bottle: do NOT place tablets in a pill box.

Whenever possible, give *Temozolomide (Temodar)*, to yourself and follow the steps below. If a family member, friend or caregiver gives *Temozolomide (Temodar)* to you, they also need to follow these steps:

- Wash hands with soap and water.
- Put on gloves to avoid touching the medicine (gloves are not needed if you give *Temozolomide (Temodar)* to yourself).
- Do not let women who are pregnant or who may get pregnant touch the tablets without wearing gloves.
- Carefully remove *Temozolomide (Temodar)* from its package to a small disposable cup.
- Do not lay the medicine on the counter.
- Take the medicine immediately by mouth with water.
- Remove gloves and do not use them for anything else.
- Throw gloves and disposable cup in household trash.
- Wash hands with soap and water.
- Do not touch or handle crushed or broken tablets.

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

| Possible Side Effects: | What to do: |
|------------------------|--|
| Hair loss | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to your nurse about a wig or other options. • Ask about options to help decrease hair loss. • Hair will grow back 1-3 months after stopping chemotherapy. |

Medical Oncology

Drug Information Sheet

| Possible Side Effects: | What to do: |
|---|---|
| <p>Increased risk for infection due to decreased blood counts</p> | <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. |
| <p>Nausea or vomiting Decreased appetite Weight Loss</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take nausea medicine as instructed. Let your doctor know if it is not working for you. • Take <i>Temozolomide (Temodar)</i> at bedtime to decrease nausea and vomiting. • Eat smaller, frequent meals. • Try liquid nutrition supplements (Boost, Ensure). • A dietitian is available to talk with you. |
| <p>Constipation</p> | <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. |
| <p>Fatigue or weakness</p> | <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. |

Medical Oncology

Drug Information Sheet

| Possible Side Effects: | |
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| Headache | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What to do: ● Can begin during treatment and lasts 24-72 hours. ● Usually decreases after first few infusions. ● Use pain medicine as prescribed. Call your doctor if the pain is not under control. Do not take Aspirin. ● Call your doctor if your headache: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Follows a head injury ○ lasts more than 48 hours ○ is severe or starts suddenly ○ is associated with vomiting ○ is associated with vision changes ○ includes neck stiffness, drowsiness, or confusion ○ includes a rash ○ is associated with weakness or numbness in arm or leg ○ is made worse by coughing or lowering the head. |
| <i>Temozolomide (Temodar)</i> will be in urine and stool for several days after the last dose. | <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"> ● Women should not become pregnant and men should not get a partner pregnant while taking <i>Temozolomide (Temodar)</i>. ● This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if you take it while you are pregnant. ● Use birth control that you can trust to prevent pregnancy while taking this drug and for 6 months after stopping this drug. ● Do not donate sperm while taking this drug and for 3 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. |

Medical Oncology

Drug Information Sheet

Less common side effects that may happen

| Less common side effects | What to do: |
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| <p>Lower than normal red blood cells Anemia</p> | <p>Call you doctor if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ shortness of breath with activity ○ fatigue ○ dizziness ○ fast heartbeat or a heartbeat that does not feel normal ○ headache |
| <p>Increased risk for bone marrow problems or another cancer Leukemia</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Talk to your doctor about your concerns. ● Be sure your family doctor knows you have received biotherapy or chemotherapy medicine. |
| <p>Increased risk for bleeding due to decreased blood counts</p> | <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 |
| <p>Serious allergic reactions</p> | <p>After you return home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Call 911 and go to the Emergency Department right away if you have any symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trouble breathing ○ Chest tightness ○ Swelling of your face, lips, or tongue ● Call you doctor if you develop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A rash ○ Itching ○ Hives ○ Fever ○ Chills ○ Pain in the abdomen or back ○ Cough ○ Runny or stuffy nose |

Medical Oncology

Drug Information Sheet

| Less common side effects | |
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| Liver problems | What to do: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lab results will be checked. • Call your doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ dark urine (tea colored) ○ severe right sided stomach pain ○ light colored stools ○ bruising or if you start to bleed easily ○ yellowing of skin or eyes ○ severe nausea or throwing up ○ unexplained weight gain ○ your belly feels big or bloated |
| Lung infection Pneumocystis pneumonia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call you doctor if you have the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fever ○ Cough ○ Difficulty breathing ○ Chest pain ○ Chills ○ Fatigue • Your doctor may put you on an antibiotic. |
| These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor. | |