

## PHARMACY

Drug Information

### Pegfilgrastim Injection



#### What is Pegfilgrastim?

- Pegfilgrastim helps to stimulate the body to produce white blood cells to fight off infections.

#### How is Pegfilgrastim Administered?

- Pegfilgrastim is given as a single injection under the skin (subcutaneous) of the abdomen, upper arms or thighs, at least 24 hours after your chemotherapy.

#### Can Pegfilgrastim be Administered / Taken With Other Medications?

- Please inform your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking other medications, including Traditional Chinese Medicines, Jamu medicines or supplements.

#### What are the Important Side Effects of Pegfilgrastim?

- Pegfilgrastim may rarely cause an allergic reaction while it is being given. Signs of a reaction can include a rash, flushing or shortness of breath, swelling of your face or lips, feeling dizzy, having abdominal, back or chest pain or feeling unwell.
- Medications prescribed by your doctor should be beneficial for your condition even though they may result in some inevitable side effects.

Side Effect	Management
Muscle aches and joint pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mild pain can be relieved by taking Paracetamol (Panadol ®). Inform your doctor if pain is not controlled by Paracetamol (Panadol ®). Avoid Paracetamol (Panadol ®) when you are having fever.</li> <li>• Taking regular warm baths may also help.</li> </ul>
Spleen rupture (spleen may become enlarged and rupture)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please proceed to the A &amp; E department immediately if you experience severe pain in your abdomen.</li> </ul>

Kidney injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please proceed to the A &amp; E department immediately if you experience swelling of your face and ankles, blood in your urine or dark coloured urine, not being able to pass urine and/or urinate less than usual.</li> </ul>
Capillary leak syndrome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please proceed to the A &amp; E department immediately if you experience low blood pressure, swelling of your arms or legs, lightheadedness or severe weakness/fatigue.</li> </ul>

**If you develop rashes, facial swelling or shortness of breath after taking the medication, you could be allergic to the medication. Please seek medical attention immediately.**

**Are There any Special Precautions That I Need to Take?**

- If pregnancy occurs during your treatment, you must inform your doctor immediately.
- You should not breast-feed during treatment.

**What Else can I do to Help My Condition?**

- Exercise  
Light exercise is recommended as it helps to improve mobility, balance and even emotional well-being. Avoid strenuous exercise, and rest when you are feeling tired.
- Stay positive  
Understand your condition and take an active role in managing it. Do not be afraid to talk about it with your doctor/ pharmacist/ family members. Repressed feelings can be harmful to your immediate well-being and long-term health.
- Adequate hydration  
Maintain adequate hydration with 2 to 3 litres of fluids per day unless informed by your doctor to restrict fluids. This will decrease your chances of getting constipation and also prevent dehydration.

- Medical and dental treatment  
If you need to go into hospital for any reason other than cancer, always inform the doctors and nurses that you are receiving anti-cancer treatment.  
Talk to your cancer doctor if you think you need dental treatment. Always inform your dentist that you are receiving anti-cancer treatment.

**How do I Store Pegfilgrastim?**

Store your medication in a refrigerator between 2 – 8°C. Do not freeze.

**If you have any problem with your treatment, please contact your doctor, pharmacist or nurse clinician.**

**Please keep all medications out of reach of children.**

**You can also find useful information with regards to your medication on this website:**

<https://www.macmillan.org.uk/information-and-support>



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