

## Decitabine (Dacogen<sup>®</sup>) Injection



### What is Decitabine (Dacogen) ® Injection?

- Decitabine is an anti-cancer drug used to treat adults with acute myeloid leukemia (AML).

### How is Decitabine Administered?

- Decitabine is given as an infusion into your vein (intravenous).

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

- Please inform your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking other medications, including supplements

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

- Allergic reaction: Decitabine may rarely cause an allergic reaction while it's being given. Signs of a reaction can include: skin rash, flushing, shortness of breath, swelling of your face or lips, dizziness, having pain in your stomach, back or chest, 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
Diarrhoea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your doctor may prescribe medicines to control diarrhoea. Inform your doctor if it is severe and/or does not improve with medicine use.</li> <li>Ensure you drink at least two litres (8 cups) of fluids every day when you are having diarrhoea.</li> <li>Avoid milk or dairy products and/or high fibre food whilst you are having diarrhoea.</li> </ul>
Nausea or vomiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small frequent meals or sucking hard, sugar-free candy may help.</li> <li>Please remember to take the medicines for nausea or vomiting as instructed by your doctor.</li> </ul>

Side Effect	Management
Fatigue or tiredness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not drive or operate any machinery if you are feeling tired. Inform your doctor if fatigue is persistent or worsens.</li> </ul>
Risk of infection may be increased as Decitabine can reduce the number of white blood cells in your blood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To prevent infection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wash your hands after using toilet.</li> <li>Avoid crowds and people who are sick.</li> <li>Do not share food and avoid taking raw food.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Please proceed to the A &amp; E department immediately if you experience signs of an infection such as fever with a temperature above 38°C, chills, and burning sensation when passing urine. Do not take Paracetamol (Panadol®) to relieve fever unless instructed by your doctor/ nurse.</li> </ul>
Bruising or bleeding may occur as Decitabine can reduce the number of platelets in your blood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To prevent bleeding problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Try not to bruise, cut or burn yourself</li> <li>Clean your nose by blowing gently. Do not pick your nose</li> <li>Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush as your gums may bleed more easily</li> <li>Be aware that bleeding may take a longer time to stop</li> </ul> </li> <li>Please proceed to the A &amp; E department immediately if you experience signs of bleeding such as blood in urine or stools, or easy bruising.</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?

- It is important to inform your doctor if you intend to conceive or breastfeed while taking this medication.
- You must not become pregnant during treatment with Decitabine and must use an effective contraceptive measures during and up to 3 months

after the cessation of treatment. If pregnancy occurs during your treatment, you must inform your doctor immediately.

- Decitabine may have an anti-fertility effect, which could be irreversible. You should discuss with your doctor regarding fertility preservation prior to starting treatment.
- 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 (8 to 12 cups) 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 having chemotherapy. Talk to your cancer doctor if you think you need dental treatment. Always inform your dentist that you are having chemotherapy.

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

