MEDICATION INFORMATION LEAFLET FOR

CYTARABINE

FOR INTRAVENOUS AND SUBCUTANEOUS ADMINISTRATION

This leaflet should be used in conjunction with the complete consumer medicine information (CMI) which is available from any pharmacy.

This leaflet contains information about Cytarabine including details of known side effects. It does not include every possible side effect.

The type and severity of side effects experienced differs for each child. Some side effects are minor and easily treated at home. However, others may be more serious and require prompt medical assessment. Side effects from treatment are routinely monitored with blood tests and clinical examination. If you have any questions about side effects during treatment, please speak to your doctor. Also, if your child experiences any problems or side effects during treatment, please contact your doctor, clinical nurse consultant/coordinator or pharmacy staff for advice.

USE

- Chemotherapy used to treat some types of leukaemia and lymphoma

OTHER NAMES

- Cytosine arabinoside
- Ara-C®

PRESENTATION

- A clear, colourless liquid
- Drawn up in a syringe or diluted in a bag of fluid

ADMINISTRATION

Administration will always be in a hospital setting

- Intravenous infusion
- Intravenous injection
- Subcutaneous injection

SIDE EFFECTS *Continued overleaf*

Common

IMMEDIATE (within 1-2 days of receiving drug)	DELAYED (within 1-2 weeks of receiving drug)
• Nausea • Vomiting • Loss of appetite • Abdominal pain • Eye irritation or soreness (especially with high-dose therapy) • Fever • Muscle and/or bone pain • Skin rash	• Decrease in blood count • Mucositis (inflammation or ulceration of the mouth and gut) • Diarrhoea • Hair loss

Less common

- Flu-like symptoms

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SIDE EFFECTS (CONT.)

Rare

- Allergic reactions which may be life-threatening. Symptoms of a severe reaction may include skin rash or hives, swelling or tingling of the lips and face, difficulty breathing and low blood pressure which may lead to collapse. Seek medical attention **immediately** if any of the above symptoms occur.
- Severe gut ulceration
- Liver damage
- Inflammation of the lungs
- Impaired brain function (reduced muscle coordination, slurred speech, unsteady walk)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Ask your doctor or pharmacist before using any other medicine including over-the-counter medicines and complimentary medicines.
- Avoid excessive exposure to sunlight and use a high SPF sunscreen.
- Keep ALL medication out of the reach of children.

SYRINGES FOR HOME USE (SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTION)

- Store syringes in the fridge.
- Allow syringe to reach room temperature before giving dose.
- Dispose of syringes and needles in sharps container.

HIGH-DOSE THERAPY

- Continue eye drops for at least 24 hours after the last dose of cytarabine.

CONTACT

For further information, or to discuss any concerns you may have about your child's medication, please feel free to contact the Children's Cancer Centre of your child's treating hospital:

- The Royal Children's Hospital Oncology Pharmacy (03) 9345 6290
- Monash Children's Hospital Cancer Centre (03) 8572 3456 or Pharmacist desk (03) 8572 3464

Disclaimer: This information has been prepared by the Paediatric Integrated Cancer Service, with input from the Children's Cancer Centre Pharmacy Departments at The Royal Children's Hospital and Monash Children's Hospital. This information is for educational purposes only and should not be seen as a substitute for advice from your doctor or other professional healthcare provider. If you have specific questions about the content of this information, or any other medical matter, it is recommended that you consult your doctor, pharmacist or other professional healthcare provider. This information is considered to be true and correct at the date of publication, however changes in circumstances after the time of publication may impact on the accuracy of this information.

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Available at **www.vics.org.au/pics**

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