MEDICATION INFORMATION LEAFLET FOR

DACARBAZINE

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 Dacarbazine 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 Hodgkin lymphoma and some types of solid tumour

OTHER NAMES

- DTIC

PRESENTATION

- A clear, colourless liquid
- Diluted in a bag of fluid

ADMINISTRATION

Administration will always be in a hospital setting

- Intravenous infusion

SIDE EFFECTS *Continued overleaf*

Common

IMMEDIATE (within 1-2 days of receiving drug)	DELAYED (within 1-2 weeks of receiving drug)
• Nausea or vomiting	• Decrease in blood count • Hair loss

Less common

- Increased risk of sunburn
- Facial flushing
- Rash
- Metallic taste
- Loss of appetite
- Diarrhoea
- Altered liver enzymes
- Fever and chills (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.
- Liver damage
- Damage to the nervous system

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Dacarbazine can cause damage to nearby tissue if the medication leaks out of the vein. If this occurs, pain and swelling are usually immediate but may occur later. Notify the ward or clinic staff if your child complains of pain at the injection site.
- Ask your doctor or pharmacist before using any other medicine including over-the-counter medicines and complementary medicines.
- Avoid excessive exposure to sunlight and use a high SPF sunscreen.
- Keep ALL medication out of the reach of children.

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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