

# PROCARBAZINE



**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 Procarbazine 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

## OTHER NAMES

- Natulan®

## PRESENTATION

- Pale yellow capsules: 50 mg

## ADMINISTRATION

- Oral

## SIDE EFFECTS

### Common

IMMEDIATE (within 1-2 days of receiving drug)	DELAYED (within 1-2 weeks of receiving drug)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nausea</li><li>• Vomiting</li><li>• Loss of appetite</li><li>• Drowsiness</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Decrease in blood count</li><li>• Hair loss</li></ul>

### Less common

- Headache
- Flu-like symptoms

### 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.
- Skin rash and itching
- Numbness and tingling in the hands and feet
- Nightmares and hallucinations
- Depression
- Breakdown of red blood cells
- Infertility
- New leukaemia or tumour (very rare and after prolonged use)

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Take without food.
- Take the dose around the same time each day.
- Capsules should be swallowed. If unable to swallow, they may be dispersed in water for administration. Discuss how to do this with your pharmacist.
- If you have forgotten to take a dose, do not take an extra dose. Speak to your doctor or pharmacist for advice about managing the missed dose.
- Procarbazine may interact with other medications and certain foods and beverages. Food and drug restrictions should be followed while taking procarbazine and for 2 weeks after finishing the course.
- In combination with procarbazine, certain types of drugs and foods and beverages may cause sudden high blood pressure, muscle tremor and heart palpitations.
- Do not eat the following foods:
  - aged cheeses (e.g. tasty cheese)
  - yeast or meat extracts (including Vegemite)
  - fava or broad bean pods
  - smoked or pickled meat, poultry or fish
  - fermented sausage (e.g. salami) or unfresh meat
  - over-ripe fruit (e.g. over-ripe bananas)
  - dried fruits such as raisins and prunes
  - pineapple
  - avocado
  - chocolate
  - herbal based products (particularly containing ginseng)
- Alcohol (in combination with procarbazine) may cause nausea, vomiting, headache and flushing, and so should be avoided.
- Avoid eating or drinking large amounts of caffeine-containing goods or beverages, such as chocolate, coffee, tea and cola.
- Ask your doctor or pharmacist before using any other medicine including over-the-counter medicines and complementary medicines.
- Keep ALL medication out of the reach of children.
- Avoid excessive exposure to sunlight and use a high SPF sunscreen.

## 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.