

Side Effects**What You Should Do****Prevention****More Common:**

- Fever, chills, severe nausea and vomiting
- Mild headache, loss of appetite, weight loss
- Liver problems, such as jaundice (yellowed eyes and skin)

- Contact your doctor or nurse IMMEDIATELY.
- Contact your doctor or nurse if this bothers you.
- Contact your doctor or nurse.

- Your doctor will watch for possible problems.

Less Common:

Signs of an allergic reaction:

- Difficulty in breathing or swallowing
- Joint pain, itchiness, hives rash; chest pain
- Severe stomach pain with nausea and vomiting
- Confusion, drowsiness, hallucinations, depression, nervousness
- Swelling of feet or lower legs
- Unusual thirst, lower back pain
- Sores on the mouth and lips

- Tell your doctor or nurse IMMEDIATELY if you have trouble breathing, or have any other symptoms of an allergic reaction.
- Contact your doctor or nurse IMMEDIATELY.
- Contact your doctor or nurse as soon as possible.
- Check with your doctor or nurse at your next appointment, or sooner if these symptoms bother you.
- Contact with your doctor or nurse as soon as you notice sores on mouth or lips.
- Contact your doctor as soon as possible.

- Your nurse or doctor will observe you after each injection.

- Maintain good mouth hygiene. Brush teeth often with a soft toothbrush. Avoid hot, spicy and acidic foods.

- High blood sugar. Symptoms may include: drowsiness, dry mouth, flushed skin, fruity taste in the mouth, increased urine, loss of appetite or stomach ache, trouble breathing, unusual thirst or tiredness

Rare:

- Severe headache, unusual bleeding or bruising, inability to move arms or legs
- Signs of a stroke, such as eyesight changes, slurred speech, weakness or numbness
- Pain in lower legs
- Sudden cough, chest pain, or signs of a blood clot
- Nausea and vomiting

- Go directly to the local Emergency Department and contact your doctor or nurse.
- If vomiting is severe, contact your doctor or nurse right away. If you vomit within one hour of taking antiemetic tablets, you may take another dose.

Precautions:

- Tell your doctor or nurse if you have chicken pox (or have recently been exposed to someone else with this infection), shingles, diabetes, gout, or kidney stones. Also tell your doctor or nurse if you have had medical problems with your kidney, liver or pancreas.
- Your doctor may advise you to drink extra fluids to keep your kidneys functioning properly.
- DO NOT have any vaccinations without your cancer doctor's approval.
- If you have diabetes, check your blood or urine sugar regularly. Tell your doctor if you need help to control your diabetes.
- Ask your doctor or pharmacist before using any other medicine (especially prednisone), including over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, minerals, and herbal products.
- You and your partner should avoid a pregnancy while taking asparaginase. Birth control pills alone may not be effective for contraception. It is important to discuss the most effective birth control with your doctor.
- Asparaginase should not be used if you are pregnant or breast feeding.
- Asparaginase may cause permanent changes in your ability to have children in the future. Ask your doctor or nurse for more information.

This information sheet does not contain all known information about this drug
For more information on this medication, please call your doctor, pharmacist or nurse

(Phone Number for your Doctor or Nurse)

Or call the Canadian Cancer Society's
Cancer Information Service at
1-888-939-3333
or at
www.cancer.ca

Collaborative Project of:
Systemic Therapy Program, Cancer Care Nova Scotia
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(1-866-599-2236)

MEDICATION INFO SHEET

ASPARAGINASE (ah-SPARE-ah-gin-aze)

Other names for this medication:

Kidrolase® (Brand Name)

Appearance:

Injection: Red clear solution for injection under the skin, into the bloodstream, or into a muscle.

Why this medication is used:

Asparaginase is used in combination with other medications to treat leukemia and lymphomas.

How do you take this medication:

Injection: Asparaginase is injected either into a muscle or into a vein by your chemotherapy nurse.