

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

- Loss of energy, weakness; may be severe
- Dizziness, low blood pressure

- If symptoms are severe, contact your doctor or nurse immediately. For less severe symptoms, contact your doctor or nurse if it lasts longer than 24 to 48 hours, or if you feel weak.

- Get plenty of rest. Plan your activities to allow for limited energy.
- Your doctor will check your blood pressure at your regular visits

- Numbness, tingling in hands, pain in joints, muscles
- Loss of strength in hands, arms, legs

- Contact your doctor or nurse if these bother you

- Constipation

- Try a natural or over-the-counter laxative to maintain regular bowel movements. Ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist for advice, especially if you have not had a bowel movement in two or three days. If you continue to have trouble, tell your doctor or nurse at your next visit.

- Eat a high fiber diet with whole grains, fruit and raw vegetables. Light daily exercise. Drink plenty of fluids.

- Loss of appetite
- Pain in joints, bones, muscles, or back
- Headache
- Tiredness or fatigue
- Flu-like feelings, fever and chills

- Contact your doctor or nurse if you have any of these side effects. If symptoms are sudden or severe, go directly to the local Emergency Department.

Less Common:

- Clotting of blood inside the body- pain in the legs or arms, sudden trouble breathing
- Severe swelling in the face, legs, arms or other areas of the body

- Contact your doctor or nurse if you have any of these side effects. If symptoms are sudden or severe, go directly to the local Emergency Department.

- Erectile dysfunction in men

- Check with your doctor or nurse at your next appointment, or sooner if these symptoms bother you.

- Consider sperm banking if planning a family in future

- Diarrhea

- If symptoms are severe, contact your doctor or nurse right away. For less severe diarrhea, contact your doctor or nurse if it lasts longer than 24 to 48 hours, or if you feel weak. Be sure to drink plenty of fluids.

- Limit hot, spicy, and fried foods; limit foods and drinks with caffeine.
- Avoid high fibre foods, such as bran, nuts, fruits & vegetables

Precautions:

- It is important to tell your doctor if you are taking other medications, including over the counter medications, herbal products and vitamins. Bortezomib is processed by the liver and it is very sensitive to other drugs that affect the liver enzymes.
- Some drugs, such as ketoconazole, erythromycin, clarithromycin, or grapefruit may increase the effect of bortezomib. Other drugs, such as dexamethasone, phenytoin, phenobarbital, or medications to lower cholesterol, may decrease the effect of bortezomib. Many other medications may interact with bortezomib, including over the counter medications, herbal products and vitamins.
- Avoid other medications known to cause peripheral neuropathy (e.g. amiodarone, antiviral agents, isoniazid, nitrofurantoin, statins) or decreased blood pressure.
- Tell your doctor or pharmacist ALL the medications you are taking at the same time as bortezomib.
- This drug alone, or in combination with other chemotherapy drugs, may cause fatigue, reduced sex drive, reduced sexual satisfaction and changes to any intimate relationships for both men and women.
- You and your partner should avoid a pregnancy while taking bortezomib. Birth control pills alone may not be effective for contraception. It is important to discuss the most effective birth control with your doctor.
- Bortezomib should not be used if you are pregnant or breast feeding.
- Bortezomib is a chemotherapy drug. Be careful that your family avoids any exposure to the drug from cleaning up if you vomit or have an incontinent accident. Your nurse will give you instructions on how to protect others in your home in case of exposure to the drug through your bodily fluids.

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
New Brunswick Cancer Network, Division of New Brunswick Dept.
of Health

Approved by the Nova Scotia Cancer Patient Education Committee
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(1-866-599-2236)

MEDICATION INFO SHEET

BORTEZOMIB **(bore-TEZ-oh-mibb)**

Other names for this medication:

Velcade® (Brand Name)

Appearance:

Injection: Vial with 3.5 mg bortezomib.

Why this medication is used:

Bortezomib is used to treat multiple myeloma.

How do you take this medication:

Injection: Your chemotherapy nurse will inject the medication into your bloodstream over a few minutes.