

What is Defibrotide?

Defibrotide is an agent used in the management of sinusoidal obstruction syndrome (SOS) which is sometimes referred to as veno-occlusive disease (VOD). SOS is a serious complication that can arise in patients who have received certain chemotherapy and / or Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation. SOS is a disease when the blood vessels that carry blood through the liver become swollen and blocked causing the liver to become congested, and as a result not able remove toxins, drug and other waste products from the bloodstream.

How does it work?

Defibrotide works by reducing inflammation and swelling in the blood vessel allowing the liver to work.

How is it given?

Defibrotide is given as an intravenous (IV) infusion over 2 hours.

Possible Side Effects:

Listed below, but not limited to, are the more commonly experienced side effects that you may see. The side effects your child might experience may be temporary and some may be permanent.

Common Happens in less than 1 child in 10 but more than 1 in 100 children treated	Less Likely Happens in less than 1 child in 100 but more than 1 in 1000 children treated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bleeding ▪ Low blood pressure ▪ Disturbance of blood clotting (coagulopathy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fewer platelets in the blood that may cause you to bruise and bleed more easily ▪ Abdominal or stomach pain ▪ Diarrhoea ▪ Nausea ▪ Anxiety ▪ Seizures ▪ Headaches ▪ Heart disturbances including abnormal, rapid beating of the heart and heart failure ▪ Rash ▪ Itching ▪ Dry skin ▪ Broken capillary blood vessels in skin ▪ Fever ▪ Flushing

This information sheet is a brief overview. Each individual can respond differently to the medication, it is vital that you communicate all signs and symptoms you observe to your doctor or nurse.

If you have any questions about the information provided please discuss them with your oncologist or haematologist.

Further information can be obtained from your doctor, nurse or pharmacist or at the following website:
<http://medsafe.govt.nz/consumers/medicine/where.asp>