

What is Lomustine?

Lomustine is an anti-cancer agent mainly used in solid tumours of the brain.

How does it work?

Lomustine is an alkylating agent that interferes with the function of DNA and RNA. It also acts to inhibit DNA synthesis by inhibiting key enzyme processes.

How is it given?

Lomustine is given by mouth as a capsule.

Special instructions:

- Be aware that to provide you with the correct dose, you may be given 2 different strengths of the lomustine capsules from the pharmacy. If you are given more than one type of capsule, you will need to take a combination of capsules for a single dose. Carefully check the label on the lomustine bottle before taking/giving the medication.
- Take lomustine on an empty stomach with a large glass of water. Do not eat or drink anything within 2 hours of taking the medicine.
- Lomustine can cause nausea and vomiting. Your doctor can prescribe you medicines to prevent you from feeling sick and throwing up.
- If you vomit within 30 minutes after taking your lomustine, inform your doctor or nurse right away.
- This medicine may make your mouth sore and irritated. Your doctor or nurse may give you mouth washes to keep your mouth clean after taking lomustine.

Safe Handling:

All chemotherapy taken by mouth can pose a health hazard to caregivers and patients. Take care when handling this medicine and try to prevent the medication from touching your skin. Taking precautions will protect both the patient and the caregiver.

- We suggest that the caregiver wears gloves while handling this medicine. If your skin comes into contact with the medicine, wash your hands or the area of contact right away.
- Prepare a clean area where the drug can be handled safely (away from areas where food is prepared, out of reach of children and away from any fans or air vents). Clean up spills in the area where the medicine is prepared.

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.

Lomustine

for MUS teen

Patient/Caregiver Information

	Likely Happens to 21-100 children out of every 100	Rare but serious Happens to <5 children out of every 100
Immediate Within 1-2 days of receiving the medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nausea ▪ Vomiting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Confusion - difficulty in thinking clearly or a sense of not knowing where you are ▪ Tiredness ▪ Unsteadiness when walking ▪ Slurred speech
Prompt Within 2-3 weeks, prior to the next course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fewer white blood cells, red blood cells and platelets in the blood. A lower number of white blood cells may make it easier to get infections. Fewer red blood cells may make you feel tired and weak. Fewer platelets may cause you to bruise and bleed more easily[^] ▪ Loss of appetite ▪ Weight loss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase in the blood of certain enzymes or bilirubin (a substance produced by the liver when breaking down waste products) which could indicate liver irritation or damage[^] ▪ Inflammation and/or sores in the mouth that may make swallowing difficult or painful
Delayed Anytime later during therapy, excluding the above conditions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Damage and scarring of the lungs that can lead to fluid in the lungs and affect your ability to breathe and the levels of oxygen in your blood. This usually occurs with very large doses over a long period of time[^] ▪ Severe kidney damage (which may be permanent). This usually occurs with very large doses[^] ▪ Damage to the nerves of the eye which may decrease vision (the ability to see clearly) and may cause blindness
Late Anytime later after completion of therapy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Damage to the lungs which can become worse over time and lead to death ▪ A new cancer or leukemia resulting from this treatment
[^] Toxicity may occur later		

Lomustine can increase the risk of premature menopause in females and infertility in males and females. The likelihood increases with exposure to high doses or a high cumulative dose.

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>