

What is Dacarbazine?

Dacarbazine is an anti-cancer agent used in the treatment of lymphomas.

How does it work?

Dacarbazine is an alkylating agent which causes the death of cells by causing DNA double strand breaks.

How is it given?

Dacarbazine is given as an intravenous (IV) infusion over 15 to 30 minutes.

Special instructions:

- Dacarbazine can cause nausea and vomiting. Your doctor can prescribe you medicines to prevent you from feeling sick and throwing up.
- Dacarbazine can make you skin more sensitive to the sun making it easier to get sunburnt. While on dacarbazine, use sunscreen and wear protective clothing when exposed to the sun for long periods of time.

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.

Likely Happens to 21-100 children out of every 100	Less Likely Happens to 5-20 children out of every 100	Rare but serious Happens to <5 children out of every 100
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Decrease in appetite ▪ Nausea ▪ Vomiting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flu-like syndrome: muscle aches, fever, tiredness ▪ Diarrhoea ▪ Weight loss ▪ Hair loss ▪ Increased sensitivity of your skin to the sun ▪ Skin rashes ▪ Fewer white and 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 ▪ Premature menopause 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Severe allergic reaction which can be life threatening with shortness of breath, low blood pressure, rapid heart rate, chills and fever. ▪ Liver damage ▪ Nervous system damage: tingling sensations, confusion, sleepiness or seizures

Dacarbazine can increase the risk of premature menopause in females and infertility in males and females.

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>