Pegfilgrastim

prg fil GRA stim

Patient/Caregiver Information

What is Pegfilgrastim?

Pegfilgrastim is granulocyte colony-stimulating factor (G-CSF). It is a long-acting man-made form of a natural human hormone generally given after chemotherapy, to reduce the duration of time when you have low neutrophils (a type of white cell in your blood that fights infections). By increasing the number of neutrophils it also reduces the associated risk of infections.

How does it work?

Pegfilgrastim stimulates the production, maturation and activation of neutrophils.

How is it given?

Pegfilgrastim is given as a single subcutaneous (SC) injection.

Special instructions:

- Keep the pegfilgrastim syringe stored in the fridge. Do not freeze the injection.
- Pegfilgrastim is usually given 24 hours after your last dose of chemotherapy.
- Before giving a dose of pegfilgrastim, take the syringe out of the fridge 1 hour prior to administration.
- The prefilled injection of 6mg can be obtained on a prescription from your community pharmacy.
- For doses of 6mg, you or your parent/caregiver can be taught how to administer the pegfilgrastim
- For doses less than 6mg, a nurse will administer the pegfilgrastim

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
Immediate Within 1-2 days of receiving the medicine		▪ Pain, redness, itching and hardening of the skin and bruising at the site of injection ▪ Headaches	▪ Low grade fevers ▪ Serious allergic reaction which can be life-threatening with a rapid build-up of fluid under the skin, in the lining of the intestine and possibly in the throat or swelling of the tongue which could make it difficult to breathe ▪ Overall reddening with feelings of warmth
Prompt Within 2-3 weeks, prior to the next course	▪ Mild to moderate bone pain	▪ Higher than normal levels of liver enzymes in the blood which may indicate liver irritation or damage ▪ Increase level of uric acid in the blood ▪ Fewer platelets in the blood that may cause you to bruise and bleed more easily.	▪ Enlargement of the spleen which may cause pain in the abdomen or left shoulder ▪ Severe damage to the spleen which could lead to pain and loss of blood into the abdomen and may be life threatening ▪ Sickle cell crisis in patients diagnosed with sickle cell disease ▪ Higher than normal white blood cell count ▪ Skin condition marked by fever and painful skin lesions that

			appear mainly on the face, neck, back and arms

Pegfilgrastim

prg fil GRA stim

Patient/Caregiver Information

	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
Delayed Anytime later during therapy, excluding the above conditions			▪ Difficulty breathing and lung damage that may be due to white cells that are stimulated by pegfilgrastim travelling to the lungs when they are inflamed or infected

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