

### What is Vinorelbine?

Vinorelbine is an anti-cancer agent used to treat some types of solid tumours.

### How does it work?

Vinorelbine works on cells to prevent DNA synthesis. Vinorelbine disrupts the formation of mitotic spindles, which stops the cell replicating during metaphase, a specific phase in the life of a cell cycle. Vinorelbine also interferes with nucleic acid and protein synthesis.

### How is it given?

Vinorelbine is administered as an intravenous (IV) push or as a short infusion over 15 minutes.

### Special instructions:

- You may be prescribed a medicine to help with numbness, tingling or pain that can occur with vinorelbine treatment.
- Tell the nurse right away if you have pain or redness at the site where the injection is given.
- Certain side effects of therapy may be exacerbated when vinorelbine is given during radiation therapy. If you are receiving radiotherapy as part of your treatment, vinorelbine may be delayed or skipped during the duration of radiation.

### 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.

	<b>Likely</b> Happens to 21-100 children out of every 100	<b>Less Likely</b> Happens to 5-20 children out of every 100	<b>Rare but serious</b> Happens to <5 children out of every 100
<b>Immediate</b> Within 1-2 days of receiving the medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Irritation of skin at the injection site</li> <li>▪ Nausea and/or vomiting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Diarrhoea</li> <li>▪ Muscle weakness, pain, or cramps</li> <li>▪ Inflammation and discomfort in the vein through which the medicine was given</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fever</li> <li>▪ Severe allergic reaction which can be life threatening with shortness of breath, low blood pressure, rapid heart rate, chills and fever</li> <li>▪ High blood pressure<sup>^</sup></li> <li>▪ Build-up of fluid in the lungs</li> <li>▪ Chest pain (usually associated with pre-existing heart or lung conditions)</li> <li>▪ Damage to nearby tissue if the drug leaks out of the vein when being administered</li> </ul>
<b>Prompt</b> Within 2-3 weeks, prior to the next course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Constipation</li> <li>▪ A feeling of extreme tiredness, weakness or not feeling well</li> <li>▪ Fewer white and red blood cells 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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fewer platelets in the blood that may cause you to bruise and bleed more easily.</li> <li>▪ Numbness or tingling in the fingers and toes</li> <li>▪ Loss of appetite</li> <li>▪ Abdominal pain</li> <li>▪ Inflammation and/or sores in the mouth that may make swallowing difficult or painful</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rash</li> <li>▪ Heart attack<sup>^</sup></li> <li>▪ Liver damage</li> <li>▪ Loss of deep tendon reflexes</li> <li>▪ An abnormal walk with foot slapping</li> <li>▪ Muscle aches and pains</li> <li>▪ Redness and peeling of the skin on the palms and soles of the feet</li> <li>▪ Decreased ability to hear clearly</li> </ul>

# Vinorelbine

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## Patient/Caregiver Information

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<b>Prompt</b> Within 2-3 weeks, prior to the next course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elevation in the blood of certain enzymes found in the liver which could indicate liver irritation or damage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased bilirubin (a substance produced by the liver when breaking down waste products) which can lead to jaundice (yellowing of skin and eyes)</li> <li>Hair loss</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Headache</li> <li>Jaw pain</li> <li>Bleeding and inflammation of the urinary bladder</li> <li>Inflammation of the pancreas which can cause severe abdominal pain<sup>^</sup></li> <li>Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) where there is a build-up of white blood cells and fluid in your lungs which makes you feel very short of breath</li> <li>Blood clots which may be life-threatening<sup>^</sup></li> <li>Complete stoppage of your intestinal activity which can result in intestinal blockage</li> </ul>
<b>Delayed</b> Anytime later during therapy, excluding the above conditions			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Redness, burning or a darkening of skin at the sites which have received radiation in the past</li> <li>Abnormal hormone function which may lower the level of salt in the blood and urine, causing too much or too little urine</li> </ul>
<sup>^</sup> Toxicity may occur later			

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>