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Valstar Vial

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Description

Side Effects Bladder irritation, with symptoms such as pain, spasm, and frequent urge to urinate, usually occurs. This medication usually will cause your urine to turn a reddish color. This is a normal, harmless effect of the drug and should not be mistaken for blood in your urine. If any of these effects last or get worse after 24 hours, tell your doctor right away. Infrequent side effects include nausea, abdominal/stomach pain, diarrhea, headache, weakness, dizziness, or back pain. If any of these effects last or get worse, tell your doctor. Remember that this medication has been prescribed because your doctor has judged that the benefit to you is greater than the risk of side effects. Many people using this medication do not have serious side effects. Tell your doctor right away if you have any serious side effects, including: bloody urine, signs of infection (such as fever, chills), unusual tiredness. A very serious allergic reaction to this drug is rare. However, get medical help right away if you notice any symptoms of a serious allergic reaction, including: rash, itching/swelling (especially of the face/tongue/throat), trouble breathing, severe dizziness. This is not a complete list of possible side effects. If you notice other effects not listed above, contact your doctor or pharmacist. In the US – Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or at www.fda.gov/medwatch. In Canada – Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to Health Canada at 1-866-234-2345. How long does it take for this medicine to take effect? The onset of action for Valstar in terms of observable clinical effects, such as a reduction in bladder cancer symptoms or changes in the size of the tumor, can vary among patients. The effectiveness of the treatment is typically evaluated through cystoscopy and biopsy several weeks after the completion of the therapy cycle. How long do the effects of this medicine last? The duration of Valstar's therapeutic effects can vary based on the individual response to treatment and the specifics of the disease being treated. The treatment regimen for Valstar involves intravesical administration (directly into the bladder) once a week for 6 weeks, and the assessment of treatment efficacy usually occurs several weeks after the last instillation. Is it safe to consume alcohol while taking this medicine? There are no specific warnings against alcohol consumption in patients being treated with Valstar. However, considering the general condition of patients undergoing chemotherapy and the potential for liver function impairment, alcohol consumption may be advisable to limit or avoid. It's important for patients to consult their healthcare provider regarding alcohol use. Is this a habit forming medicine? Valstar is not habit-forming. It does not possess addictive properties and is used specifically for its antineoplastic (anti-cancer) activity. Can this medicine be taken during pregnancy? Valstar is classified as FDA Pregnancy Category C, which means that

animal reproduction studies have shown an adverse effect on the fetus, and there are no adequate and well-controlled studies in humans. However, the potential benefits may warrant the use of Valstar during pregnancy despite potential risks. Due to its potential teratogenic effects, valrubicin should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed and after careful consideration of the risks and benefits. Can this medicine be taken while breast-feeding? It is not known whether valrubicin is excreted in human breast milk. Due to the potential for serious adverse reactions from Valstar in nursing infants, a decision should be made whether to discontinue breastfeeding or to discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother's health. Given the potential risks, breastfeeding is generally not recommended during treatment with valrubicin. Uses Valrubicin is used to treat bladder cancer. The usual treatment for bladder cancer is surgery. However, if you and your doctor decide that the risk of surgery is greater than its benefit or that surgery may be delayed, this medication may be used as part of your treatment. This medication belongs to a class of drugs known as anthracyclines and works by slowing or stopping the growth of cancer cells. This medication may not cure your cancer. Delaying surgery could lead to a more serious illness (metastatic cancer). Discuss the risks and benefits of this medication with your doctor. How to use Valstar Vial This medication is given by placement into the bladder as directed by your doctor, usually once weekly for 6 weeks. Do not give by injection into a vein or muscle or under the skin. After this medication is placed through a tube (catheter), it is usually left in the bladder for 2 hours, then released by urinating. Drink plenty of fluids after each treatment with this medication unless otherwise directed by your doctor. Doing so helps clear it from your body and decrease side effects. Precautions Before using valrubicin, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or to other anthracyclines (such as doxorubicin); or if you have any other allergies. This product may contain inactive ingredients (such as polyoxyethylated castor oil), which can cause allergic reactions or other problems. Talk to your pharmacist for more details. Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: small bladder size or other bladder problems (such as perforation, incontinence), current urinary infection/symptoms of bladder irritation (including pain, spasm, frequent urge to urinate). Before having surgery, tell your doctor or dentist about all the products you use (including prescription drugs, nonprescription drugs, and herbal products). Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. You should not become pregnant while using valrubicin. Valrubicin may harm an unborn baby. Men and women using this medication should ask about reliable forms of birth control during treatment. If you or your partner becomes pregnant, talk to your doctor right away about the risks and benefits of this medication. It is unknown if this drug passes into breast milk. Because of the possible risk to the infant, breast-feeding while using this drug is not recommended. Consult your doctor before breast-feeding. Overdose If someone has overdosed and has serious symptoms such as passing out or trouble breathing, call 911. Otherwise, call a poison control center right away. US residents can call their local poison control center at 1-800-222-1222. Canada residents can call a provincial poison control center. Lab and/or medical tests (such as biopsy, cystoscopy, urine cytology) should be done while you are using this medication. Keep all medical and lab appointments. Consult your doctor for more details. It is important to get each dose of this medication as scheduled. If you miss a dose, ask your doctor right away for a new dosing schedule. Do not double the dose to catch up. Not applicable. This medication is given in a hospital or clinic and will not be stored at home. Interactions Drug interactions may change how your medications work or increase your risk for serious side effects. This document does not contain all possible drug interactions. Keep a list of all the products you use (including prescription/nonprescription drugs and herbal products) and share it with your doctor and pharmacist. Do not start, stop, or change the dosage of any medicines without your doctor's approval.

Side Effects

Uses

Interactions

Other Details
