

# Aspariginase (Elspar<sup>®</sup>)

Aspariginase is an anti-cancer medicine that stops cell growth and division. It is used to treat a certain type of leukemia called lymphocytic leukemia (ALL).

## How Is It Given?

- clear liquid by IV (intravenous)
- in a muscle (intramuscular)

## What Side Effects May Occur?

This is a partial list of the side effects you may have with this medicine. You may have some, all or none of those listed, or you may have other side effects not listed. Most side effects last only a short time.

### Common:

- allergic reaction (shortness of breath, wheezing, rash, chest pain, dizziness and lightheadedness) that usually occurs during infusion
- nausea (upset stomach) or vomiting (throwing up) (usually 4 to 6 hours after treatment)
- loss of appetite or weight loss
- mild liver changes
- stomach cramps
- depression
- fatigue (usually increases with each dose)
- headache, drowsiness or confusion

### Less common:

- mild fever or chills
- mouth sores

- lowered white blood cells, red blood cells and platelets
- bleeding or clotting problems
- pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas)

## Special Notes

- You may be given a test dose (a small amount of the medicine) before your treatment to see if you have any reaction to aspariginase.
- Some medicines may interact with aspariginase. Tell your doctor all of the medicines you are taking.
- This medicine can raise your blood glucose. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or pre-diabetes.

## When To Call Your Doctor

You should call your doctor if you have:

- trouble breathing
- rash or hives
- swollen face, mouth or tongue
- swollen feet and ankles
- yellowing of your skin or eyes
- fever, chills or sore throat
- unusual bleeding, bruising or both
- need to urinate often.

Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you want more complete medicine information or if you have questions.