

Hydroxyurea (Hydrea®)

Hydroxyurea is an anti-cancer medicine that stops cell growth and division. This medicine is used to treat many types of cancer.

How Is It Given?

- capsule by mouth.

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:

- lowered white blood cell count (can start within 24 to 48 hours of starting treatment)
- loss of appetite

Less common:

- nausea (upset stomach) and vomiting (throwing up)
- mouth sores
- diarrhea (loose, watery stools)
- constipation (unable to have bowel movement)
- headache, drowsiness or confusion
- skin rash
- hair loss
- swollen feet
- lowered red blood cell and platelet counts

Special Notes

- Do not receive vaccines that have a live virus such as measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) or the oral polio vaccine.
 - Some vaccines that are OK to have are the tetanus, influenza and pneumococcal vaccines.
 - Ask your doctor if you need a vaccine and are not sure if it is safe.
- You may have changes in your menstrual cycle or sperm count. Discuss birth control measures with your doctor. You should not get pregnant or father a child while taking this medicine.

When To Call Your Doctor

You should call your doctor if you have:

- skin rash
- fever, chills or sore throat
- mouth sores
- unusual bleeding or bruising
- back pain
- black, tarry stools
- yellowing of your skin or eyes
- nausea or vomiting you cannot control.

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