

Temozolomide (Temodar®)

Temozolomide is an anti-cancer medicine that stops cell growth and division. This medicine is used to treat brain tumors.

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 and platelet counts (occurs 2 to 3 weeks after treatment)
- nausea (upset stomach) and vomiting (throwing up) (usually occurs the first day)
- mouth sores
- diarrhea (loose, watery stools)
- constipation (unable to have a bowel movement)
- loss of appetite
- hair thinning
- lethargy or fatigue
- headache

Less common:

- lowered red blood cell count
- feeling dizzy or unsteady
- skin rash

Special Notes

- Take temozolomide on an empty stomach. You should avoid eating for 4 hours before and 2 hours after each dose.
- Do not crush or dissolve the capsules.
- You may have to take a combination of 250 mg, 100 mg, 20 mg and 5 mg capsules. It is important that you to correctly identify the capsules. Taking the wrong capsules could result in an overdose (too much medicine) or an underdose (too little medicine).
- 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:

- fever, chills or sore throat
- unusual bleeding or bruising
- shortness of breath
- rash
- mouth sores
- nausea, vomiting or diarrhea you cannot control

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