

Plicamycin (Mithramycin[®], Mithracin[®])

Plicamycin is an anti-cancer medicine that stops cell growth and division. This medicine is used to treat many types of cancer and is sometimes used to treat high calcium levels.

How Is It Given?

- light yellow liquid by IV (intravenous)

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:

- nausea (feel like throwing up) and vomiting (throwing up) — starting 6 hours after treatment and lasting up to 24 hours
- lowered white blood cell, red blood cell and platelet counts (occurs 7 to 14 days after treatment)
- loss of appetite
- metallic taste during treatment
- mouth sores
- hair thinning

Less common:

- headache
- drowsiness or weakness
- facial flushing
- diarrhea (loose stools) or stomach cramps
- muscle stiffness or twitching

Special Notes

- Call your nurse if you feel pain or burning at the IV site while the drug is infusing.
- 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

Call your doctor if you have:

- fever, chills or sore throat
- unusual bleeding or bruising
- mouth sores
- trouble breathing or wheezing
- rash or hives
- yellowing of your skin or eyes
- blood in vomit or stool.

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