

Cladribine (Leustatin[®], 2-CdA)

Cladribine is an anti-cancer drug that stops cell growth and division. This medicine is used to treat certain types of leukemia.

How Is It Given?

- clear 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 (upset stomach) and vomiting (throwing up) (usually mild)
- loss of appetite
- lowered white blood cell, red blood cell and platelet counts (occurs 1 to 2 weeks after starting treatment)
- fatigue
- headache
- skin rash
- fever more than 100 F for up to 1 month after treatment
- chills

Less common:

- pain at the IV site
- shortness of breath or cough
- stomach pain
- swollen feet, legs or both

- constipation (not having regular bowel movements) or diarrhea
- dizziness
- sweating
- weakness

Special Notes

- Cladribine is usually given by IV for 7 days in a row.
- 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:

- rapid heartbeat
- swollen feet or ankles
- fever, chills or sore throat
- unusual bleeding or bruising
- severe diarrhea
- severe mouth sores
- trouble breathing
- blood in your urine or stools
- pain, redness or swelling at the IV site.

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