

Bortezomib (Velcade®)

Bortezomib is an anti-cancer medicine that stops cell growth and division. It is used to treat certain types of cancer called multiple myeloma.

How Is It Given?

- by IV (intravenous) injection
- by injection under the skin (subcutaneous)

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), vomiting (throwing up), diarrhea (loose stools) or constipation (unable to have a bowel movement)
- fever
- decreased appetite
- fatigue or weakness
- burning or numbness in your feet or hands
- anemia (low red blood cells)
- decrease in platelets (can lead to easy bruising or bleeding, 1 to 2 weeks after treatment)
- decreased blood pressure

Less common:

- dizziness or lightheadedness
- shortness of breath
- anxiety
- blurred vision
- rash
- abdominal (belly) pain
- abnormal taste

Special Notes

- Do not take this medicine if you have an allergy to bortezomib, boron or mannitol.
- Tell your doctor if you:
 - are pregnant or breastfeeding
 - have diabetes
 - are taking amiodarone, isoniazid, nitrofurantoin or statins.
- Use an effective form of birth control while you are taking this medicine.
- Some medicines interact with bortezomib. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any of the following:
 - antibiotics (such as ciprofloxacin, clarithromycin, doxycycline or erythromycin)
 - antifungals (such as fluconazole, itraconazole or voriconazole)
 - anti-HIV medicines
 - verapamil.

(over)

When To Call Your Doctor

You should call your doctor if you have:

- an allergic reaction:
 - itching or hives
 - swelling of your hands, mouth, throat or face
 - trouble breathing
- double or blurred vision
- fainting episodes
- new or worsening burning or numbness in your feet or hands
- severe nausea or vomiting
- unusual bleeding, bruising or both.

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