

# Filgrastim (Neupogen<sup>®</sup>, G-CSF)

Filgrastim is a medicine that helps the bone marrow make new white blood cells. This helps prevent infections in patients whose resistance to infection is lowered by taking certain medicines, having bone marrow transplants or having certain kinds of disease.

## How Is It Given?

- clear liquid by IV (intravenous)
- by injection just under the skin (subcutaneous injection)

## 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:

- bone pain
- redness or pain where the injection is given
- headache
- nausea (feel like throwing up)

### Less common:

- skin rash or itching
- fever
- low blood pressure
- allergic reaction:
  - skin rash
  - itching or hives
  - swelling in your face, lips or throat

- tightness in your chest
- breathing problems
- fast or irregular heartbeat

## Special Notes

- Filgrastim should not be given within 24 hours before or 24 hours after receiving certain kinds of chemotherapy.
- Some medicines may interact with filgrastim. Tell your doctor if you are taking lithium.
- Tell your doctor or nurse if you are having bone pain while receiving this medicine. Your doctor can prescribe medicine to help relieve the pain.
- Discuss birth control measures with your doctor. You should not get pregnant or father a child while taking this medicine. Do not breastfeed while taking this medicine.
- If you are giving yourself shots, you will be taught how to do the following.
  - Store unopened vials or syringes in the refrigerator. Take the medicine out of the refrigerator about 1 hour before it is needed. Let the medicine warm to up to room temperature.
  - Do not shake the medicine vial. If the medicine has bubbles in it or is foamy, let the vial set a few minutes until the foam is gone.

**(over)**

- When you give your shots, choose a different place on your thighs or abdomen to give each shot. Do not use the same place each time.

## **When To Call Your Doctor**

Call your doctor if you have:

- shortness of breath
- swelling in your face, lips or throat
- chest tightness or pain
- fast, slow or irregular heartbeat
- fever, chills or sore throat
- unusual bruising or bleeding
- pain, burning, itching or swelling where the shot is given.

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