

Vincristine (Oncovin[®])

Vincristine is an anti-cancer medicine that stops cell growth and division. This medicine is used to treat many types of cancer.

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:

- constipation (unable to have a bowel movement)
- abdominal (belly) cramping
- numb or tingling fingers and toes
- hair loss (2 to 3 weeks after treatment is started)
- mouth sores

Less common:

- muscle weakness
- jaw, bone, back or joint pain
- lowered white blood cell and platelet counts
- shortness of breath
- fatigue
- trouble emptying your bladder
- skin rash
- loss of appetite
- vision changes
- skin damage or severe reaction at the IV site

Special Notes

- Tell your nurse right away if you have any stinging or burning at the IV site.
- You may become constipated while taking this drug. You can help prevent that by eating more fiber or taking a stool softener or laxative.
- Some medicines interact with vincristine. Tell your doctor if you are taking any of the following:
 - phenytoin (Dilantin[®])
 - digoxin (Lanoxin[®])
 - calcium channel blockers such as Cardizem[®], Procardia[®] or Cardene[®].
- 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:

- numb or tingling hands or feet
- constipation
- pain or redness at the IV site
- changes in vision.

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

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