

Lomustine (CCNU[®], CeeNu[®], Gleostine[®])

Lomustine is an anti-cancer medicine that stops cell growth and division. This medicine is used to treat brain tumors, Hodgkin's disease and other types of cancer.

How Is It Given?

- capsule(s) by mouth
(given as a single dose every 6 weeks)

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:

- lowered white blood cell and platelet counts
(occurs 3 to 6 weeks after treatment)
- nausea (upset stomach) and vomiting
(throwing up) — can start 2 to 6 hours
after taking capsule(s)
- loss of appetite — may last for several days.

Less common:

- hair loss
- mouth sores
- diarrhea (loose, watery stools)
- fatigue (tiredness)
- liver damage
- kidney damage
- blurred vision
- shortness of breath
- confusion.

Special Notes

- Lomustine contains wheat. If you have celiac disease or a wheat allergy, talk with your doctor before taking this medicine.
- **Do not** open, chew or crush the capsule(s). Swallow the capsule(s) whole.
- Take this medicine at bedtime with a full glass of water.
- Do not take this medicine with food. Take it at least 1 hour before you eat or 2 hours after you eat.
- Take your anti-nausea medicine 30 to 60 minutes before taking lomustine to help reduce the risk of nausea and vomiting.
- Call your doctor or nurse if you are unable to keep the capsule(s) down.
- Some medicines interact with lomustine. Tell your doctor if you are taking:
 - cimetidine (Tagamet[®])
 - phenobarbital
 - any dietary, herbal, natural or vitamin supplements.
- Do not drink alcohol while taking lomustine.
- 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 and for 6 months after you have finished taking this medicine.

(over)

When To Call Your Doctor

You should call your doctor if you have:

- fever, chills or sore throat
- unusual bleeding or bruising
- trouble breathing
- swollen feet or ankles
- severe diarrhea
- blood in your urine or stools
- confusion
- yellowing of your skin or eyes.

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