

Procarbazine (Matulane®)

Procarbazine 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?

- capsule by mouth

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, red blood cell and platelet counts (occurs 3 to 4 weeks after treatment)
- nausea (upset stomach) and vomiting (throwing up)
- loss of appetite
- mouth sores
- fatigue
- sweating
- constipation (unable to have a bowel movement)
- drowsiness, depression, insomnia, nervousness
- slower reflexes
- flu-like symptoms (fever, chills, tiredness, muscle aches)

Less common:

- hair loss
- diarrhea (loose, watery stools)
- dizziness
- headache
- skin rash, itching
- sun sensitivity
- vision changes

Special Notes

- Certain foods and drinks that have tyramine may cause high blood pressure if taken with procarbazine. Some of these foods, drinks or both to avoid are:
 - cheese
 - sour cream
 - Chianti wine
 - sherry
 - beer
 - liqueurs
 - anchovies
 - caviar
 - liver
 - raisins
 - bananas
 - avocados
 - chocolate

(over)

- soy sauce
- yeast
- yogurt
- meats prepared with tenderizer
- dried or pickled fish.
- Do not drink alcohol while you are taking this medicine. It may cause severe nausea, vomiting, visual changes and headaches.
- Some medications interact with procarbazine. Let your doctor know if you are taking any of the following:
 - sleeping pills
 - cold or allergy medicines (including nasal sprays)
 - strong pain killers
 - tranquilizers
 - muscle relaxants
 - digoxin (Lanoxin®)
 - anti-depressants
 - diet (weight-reducing) medicine.
- Wear sunscreen and protective clothing while you are outside. Avoid being in the sun for too long.
- 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:

- fever, chills or sore throat
- unusual bleeding or bruising
- mouth sores
- severe diarrhea
- numb or tingling feet
- confusion
- trouble breathing
- rash or hives
- yellowing of your skin or eyes.

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