

# Vinblastine (Velban<sup>®</sup>)

Vinblastine is an anti-cancer medicine that stops cell growth and division. This medicine is used to treat ovarian and other 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:

- lowered red blood cell, white blood cell and platelet counts (4 to 10 days after treatment)
- loss of appetite
- constipation (unable to have a bowel movement)

### Less common:

- numb and tingling hands or feet
- hair thinning
- nausea (upset stomach) and vomiting (throwing up)
- mouth sores
- jaw pain or bone pain
- sun sensitivity
- loss of appetite
- fatigue
- headache
- yellowing of your skin or eyes
- 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.
- Some medicines interact with vinblastine. Tell your doctor if you are taking phenytoin (Dilantin<sup>®</sup>).
- You may become constipated while taking this medicine. You can help prevent that by eating more fiber or taking a stool softener or laxative.
- 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
- mouth sores
- nausea or vomiting you cannot control
- severe jaw or bone pain
- unusual bleeding or bruising
- painful, numb or tingling hands or feet
- trouble breathing or shortness of breath
- yellowing of your skin or eyes.

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