

# Alemtuzumab (Campath®)

Alemtuzumab is a medicine that is used to treat leukemia.

## How Is It Given?

- clear liquid by IV (intravenous) in the clinic or hospital

## 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:

- infusion (IV) reaction, most common with first dose (fever, chills, shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, rash, lowered blood pressure)
- signs of infection (fever or chills, cough, sore throat, pain or problems passing urine)
- lowered white blood cell, red blood cell and platelet counts
- diarrhea (loose stools)
- headache

### Less common:

- weakness and fatigue
- bone pain
- dizziness

## Special Notes

- It may take up to five days for this medicine to reach the desired dose. After this has occurred, alemtuzumab is given 3 times a week for up to 12 weeks.
- You may receive acetaminophen (Tylenol®) and diphenhydramine (Benadryl®) before each infusion to help reduce any side effects.
- Tell your nurse if you have shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle stiffness, or swollen lips or tongue during treatment.
- You may receive medicines to prevent infections while you are taking alemtuzumab and up to 2 months after treatment. It is important to take these medicines as your doctor prescribed.
- Avoid taking aspirin, acetaminophen (Tylenol®), ibuprofen (Advil®), ketoprofen (Orudis KT®) or naproxen (Aleve®) because these may mask a fever. You may use them if your doctor says it is OK.
- Do not have any vaccinations without your doctor's approval. Avoid having contact with anyone who has recently had the oral polio vaccine (for 4 to 6 weeks).
- Women of childbearing age: Use effective birth control during and after alemtuzumab treatment. Do not breastfeed while taking this medicine.

## When To Call Your Doctor

Call your doctor if you have:

- fever or signs of infection:
  - cough
  - sore throat
  - chills
  - pain or problems passing urine
- shortness of breath
- swelling in your face or hands, or mouth or throat
- tightness in your chest
- unusual bleeding or bruising
- fast, slow or irregular heartbeat.

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