Venetoclax (Venclexta)

Here is important information on how to use, handle, and store your medicine, what side effects to look for and how to manage them.

What it looks like:

- 10 mg round, pale yellow tablet
- 50 mg oblong, beige tablet
- 100 mg oblong, pale yellow table

How to handle and store:

- **There are special safe handling instructions for this medicine.** Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse about the precautions you need to follow when you take this medicine at home.
- Store in a closed container in a dry place such as a cabinet away from light, heat and moisture.
- **Do not** store in your bathroom or refrigerator.
- Keep this medicine away from children and **do not** share it with anyone.
- Keep this medicine in the original package or bottle. **Do not** put tablets in a pill box or other container.

How to take:

- **Do not** start this medicine until you have talked with your doctor. Your doctor will order blood tests each time your dose is increased.
- You will start with a low dose of this medicine. Your doctor will slowly increase your dose based on the results of your blood tests and how well you tolerate the medicine. Your dose may change each day or each week.
- Swallow the tablets whole with a full glass of water at the same time each day. Take this medicine with food.

This handout is for informational purposes only. Talk with your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

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- **Do not take more tablets than ordered by your doctor.**
- **Do not crush, break, or chew the tablets.**
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is less than 8 hours before your next dose, skip the missed dose. **Do not double up on doses.**
- If you vomit after a dose, **do not** take another dose. Take the next dose at your usual time.
- Drink 6 to 8 glasses of water 2 days before your first dose, on the day of your first dose and each day your dose is increased.

Disposal:

- Talk with your doctor or pharmacist about how to get rid of prescription medicines safely.

Precautions:

- Tell your doctor or pharmacist about any medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins and herbal products, such as kava or valerian.
- **Do not take St. John's Wort.**
- **Do not drink grapefruit juice or eat grapefruits, Seville oranges or starfruit while on this medicine.** These can increase your risk of side effects.
- **Do not get pregnant while on this medicine.** Talk with your doctor about what birth control to use.

Possible Side Effects

You can find more information on side effects in the Patient Education booklet, *Treatment with Chemotherapy and Anti-Cancer Medicines*.

Tumor Lysis Syndrome (TLS)

What this means: This can happen when your body quickly breaks down cancer cells after chemotherapy. Your doctor will order other medicine to help decrease your risk of TLS. You may need to take your medicine while you are in the clinic or hospital to be checked for TLS.

What to do: Call your doctor right away if you have any of the following:

- Fever, chills, nausea, vomiting, confusion, shortness of breath, seizures, irregular heartbeat, dark or cloudy urine, unusual tiredness or muscle or joint pain.

Diarrhea

What to do:

- Unless told otherwise, drink extra fluids during the day.
- Call your doctor if this happens more than 4 times in a day or lasts for more than 1 or 2 days or if you feel lightheaded or dizzy.
- Your doctor may tell you to take a medicine called Loperamide (Imodium). Your doctor will give you directions on how to take this medicine.

Low White Blood Cells/Preventing Infection

What this means: You may be at risk for getting an infection.

What to do:

- Call your doctor if you have a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) or higher.
- Wash your hands often.
- Wear a mask and stay away from people who are sick or do not feel well.
- Ask your doctor if you should get a flu shot or pneumococcal vaccine.

Bleeding/Bruising/Black Stools

What to do:

- Call your doctor if you have bruising, bleeding, and black stools or if you have unusual bleeding, such as bright red blood in your stools or nose bleeds that do not stop.
- Call your doctor if you have sudden or severe stomach pain.
- **Do not** use aspirin, ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), or naproxen (Aleve) for regular aches and pains.

Nausea and Vomiting

What to do:

- Eat small meals or snacks often during the day. Stay away from spicy or high-fat food.
- Drink water during the day.
- Call your doctor if you are unable to keep down fluids for more than 24 hours if you feel lightheaded or dizzy.
- Take your anti-nausea medicine as ordered by your doctor.

This is not a complete list of all possible side effects. Tell your doctor if you have these or any other side effects that you think are caused by this medicine. Your James health care team can give you other tips for how to manage your side effects.