

Carfilzomib

What is Carfilzomib (kar FILZ oh mib) and how does it work?

Carfilzomib is a type of cancer therapy called a proteasome inhibitor. Another name for this medicine is Kyprolis. It is similar to bortezomib (Velcade) and ixazomib (Ninlaro). Myeloma cells are more sensitive to these medicines than normal cells. Certain features of cancer cells make them different from normal cells. These features let cancer medicines attack cancer cells and cause less damage to normal cells.

What should I tell my doctor before getting chemotherapy?

Talk to your doctor about the following:

- If you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant. Your doctor will talk with you about birth control while you get chemotherapy.
- If you are breastfeeding.
- If you have had shingles (Herpes Zoster).
- If you have been told that you need to start a new medicine.
- If you have been told to get any kind of vaccination.
- If you have an allergy to Carfilzomib or any drugs like this one.
- Any medicines/pills you are taking, including:
 - ▶ Medicines prescribed by any of your doctors
 - ▶ Supplements
 - ▶ Herbs
 - ▶ Over-the-counter medicines

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

How does my doctor decide my chemotherapy dose?

Proteasome inhibitors work better at higher doses, but side effects also increase at higher doses. To determine your treatment dose and schedule, your doctor will review the following: your weight and height, your medicines, how well your kidneys and liver are working, and any other health problems you have.

You will continue this treatment as long as you are not having too many side effects and your cancer is not getting worse. You will see your doctor, physician assistant or nurse practitioner at least 1 time every 4 weeks while you are on this treatment.

Should I eat or drink before my treatment?

It is best to eat a small meal before you get your treatment. It is important to drink 8 to 10 cups of non-caffeinated fluid each day to remain hydrated. If you have been told to limit your fluids, check with your doctor about how much you can drink.

How will my treatment be given?

Carfilzomib is given directly into your bloodstream through an intravenous (IV) catheter. An IV catheter is a long, thin, flexible tube placed in a vein in your arm. If you have a central venous catheter (CVC), this can also be used. Your infusion will last 10 to 30 minutes. You will also meet with your doctor and health care team. Your entire appointment, including your infusion, will take 2 to 3 hours.

What are the side effects of this treatment?

Every person responds differently to treatment. Some of the more common side effects of this treatment may include:

- Low platelet count (may cause you to bleed more easily)
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Low white blood cell count (may increase your risk for infection)
- Low hemoglobin (may cause you to have less energy and tire more easily)

Some of the less common side effects of this treatment may include:

- Nausea or vomiting
- Decreased appetite and weight loss
- Heart damage and/or high blood pressure
- Kidney damage
- Respiratory infections
- Constipation
- Diarrhea
- Shingles (Herpes Zoster)

When should I call my doctor?

You should call your doctor **right away** if you have any of the following symptoms or problems:

- Fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) or higher
- Chills, sore throat, new or worsening cough
- Wound that does not get better
- Uncontrolled nausea that prevents you from being able to eat or drink
- Bleeding or bruising, including bloody or black stools
- Uncontrolled diarrhea (4 or more loose stools in 24 hours)
- Worsening fatigue, shortness of breath and difficulty getting out of bed
- Signs of an allergic reaction, including:
 - ▶ Difficulty breathing, wheezing, chest pain or tightness
 - ▶ Swelling in your face, lips, tongue, or throat, or unusual hoarseness
 - ▶ Rash, hives, itching

For more information about cancer, chemotherapy, side effects or how to care for yourself during treatment, refer to your **Chemotherapy and You** book, or ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

You may also find it helpful to watch The James Patient Education videos at <http://cancer.osu.edu/patientedvideos> to help you learn tips for managing side effects.