

## Azacitidine (Vidaza)

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### About This Medicine

AZACITIDINE (ay za SITE i deen) treats blood and bone marrow cancers. It works by slowing down the growth of cancer cells. It is given in the vein (IV) or as an injection under the skin (subcutaneously).

This medicine may be used for other purposes; ask your care team if you have questions.

### Possible Side Effects

- Bone marrow suppression. This is a decrease in the number of white blood cells, red blood cells, and platelets. This may raise your risk of infection, make you tired and weak, and raise your risk of bleeding.
- Fever and chills
- Nausea and vomiting (throwing up)
- Constipation (not able to move bowels)
- Diarrhea (loose bowel movements)
- Decreased level of potassium in your blood
- Weakness
- Bruising
- Injection site reaction - you may get a rash, swelling or bruising or your skin may get red, warm, itchy, or painful at the site of injection
- Tiny red spots on the skin, often from low platelets.

**Note:** Each of the side effects above was reported in greater than 30% of people treated with azacitidine. All possible side effects are not included. Your side effects may be different depending on your cancer diagnosis, condition, or if you are receiving other medicines in combination. Please discuss any concerns or questions with your care team.

### Warnings and Precautions

- If you have liver disease, you may have additional changes in your liver function, which can be life-threatening.
- Changes in your kidney function, which can cause kidney failure and be life-threatening.

- Tumor lysis syndrome which can be life-threatening: This medicine may act on the cancer cells very quickly. This may affect how your kidneys work.

## Important Information

- This medicine may be present in the urine, stool and other body fluids such as blood, vomit, semen, and vaginal fluids. Take precautions to prevent others from coming in contact with your medicine or your body fluids. Follow safety precautions during your treatment and for as long as directed by your care team after your treatment. If you take a pill each day, follow these precautions every day.

## Treating Side Effects

- Manage tiredness by pacing your activities for the day.
- Be sure to include periods of rest between energy-draining activities.
- To help decrease the risk of infections, wash your hands regularly.
- Avoid close contact with people who have a cold, the flu, or other infections.
- Take your temperature as your care team tells you, and whenever you feel like you may have a fever.
- To help decrease the risk of bleeding, use a soft toothbrush. Check with your care team before using dental floss.
- Be very careful when using knives or tools.
- Use an electric shaver instead of a razor.
- Drink enough fluids to keep your urine pale yellow.
- If you throw up or have diarrhea, you should drink more fluids so that you do not become dehydrated (lack of water in the body from losing too much fluid).
- To help with nausea and vomiting, eat small, frequent meals instead of three large meals a day. Choose foods and drinks that are at room temperature. Ask your care team about other helpful tips and medicine that is available to help stop or lessen these symptoms.
- If you have diarrhea, eat low-fiber foods that are high in protein and calories and avoid foods that can irritate your digestive tracts or lead to cramping.
- If you are not able to move your bowels, check with your care team before you use enemas, laxatives, or suppositories.
- Ask your care team about medicine that can lessen or stop your diarrhea and/or constipation.
- While you are getting this medicine, please tell your care team right away if you get a rash, swelling or bruising or your skin gets red, warm, itchy or painful at the site of your injection.

## Food and Medicine Interactions

- There are no known interactions of azacitidine with food.
- This medicine may interact with other medicines. Tell your care team about all the medicines and dietary supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbs, and others) that you are taking at this time. Also,



check with your care team before starting any new prescription or over-the-counter medicines, or dietary supplements to make sure that there are no interactions.

## When to Call Your Care Team

Call your care team if you have any of these symptoms and/or any new or unusual symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher
- Chills
- Tiredness and/or weakness that interferes with your daily activities
- Feeling dizzy or lightheaded
- Easy bleeding or bruising
- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking and/or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Throwing up more than 3 times a day
- Diarrhea, 4 times in one day or diarrhea with lack of strength or a feeling of being dizzy
- No bowel movement in 3 days or when you feel uncomfortable
- Any new tiny red spots on the skin
- Decreased and/or dark urine
- Signs of possible liver problems: dark urine, pale bowel movements, pain in your abdomen, feeling very tired and weak, unusual itching, or yellowing of the eyes or skin
- Signs of tumor lysis: confusion or agitation, decreased urine, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, muscle cramping, numbness and/or tingling, seizures
- Signs of low potassium levels: weakness, tiredness, muscle cramps, constipation

## Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** This medicine can cause serious birth defects. If you can become pregnant, use birth control while taking this medicine and for 6 months after the last dose. If you can get your partner pregnant, use birth control while taking this medicine and for 3 months after the last dose. Tell your care team right away if you think you might be pregnant or think your partner might be pregnant.
- **Breastfeeding warning:** Do not breastfeed while taking this medicine and for 1 week after the last dose.
- **Fertility warning:** This medicine may affect your ability to have children in the future. If you plan to have children, talk with your care team.

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