

Fosaprepitant (Emend)

About This Medicine

Fosaprepitant is a medicine used before chemotherapy to prevent nausea and vomiting (throwing up) during chemotherapy. It is given in the vein (IV).

Possible Side Effects

- Decrease in white blood cells and red blood cells. This may raise your risk of infection and may make you feel more tired.
- Tiredness and weakness
- Diarrhea (loose bowel movements)
- Indigestion
- Pain in your arm or leg
- Urinary tract infection
- Effects on the nerves are called peripheral neuropathy. You may feel numbness, tingling, or pain in your hands and feet. It may be hard for you to button your clothes, open jars, or walk as usual. The effect on the nerves may get worse with more doses of the medicine. These effects get better in some people after the medicine is stopped but it does not get better in all people.

Note: Each of the side effects above was reported in 2% or greater of patients treated with fosaprepitant. 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 medical team.

Warnings and Precautions

- Allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis are rare but may happen in some patients. Signs of allergic reaction to this medicine may be swelling of the face, feeling like your tongue or throat are swelling, trouble breathing, rash, itching, fever, chills, feeling dizzy, and/or feeling that your heart is beating in a fast or not normal way. **If this happens, do not take another dose of this medicine. You should get urgent medical treatment.**
- 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 your infusion. Very rarely it may cause local tissue necrosis (tissue death) if the medicine leaks out of the vein and into the nearby tissue. The risk of tissue necrosis is slightly increased if you are also receiving chemotherapy that can cause skin and tissue irritation.

Note: Some of the side effects above are very rare. If you have concerns and/or questions, please discuss them with your medical team.

Treating Side Effects

- To decrease the risk infection, wash your hands regularly.
- Avoid close contact with people who have a cold, the flu, or other infections
- Take your temperature as your doctor or nurse tells you, and whenever you feel like you may have a fever.
- Manage tiredness by pacing your activities for the day.
- Be sure to include periods of rest between energy-draining activities.
- Get regular exercise, with your doctor's approval. If you feel too tired to exercise vigorously, try taking a short walk.
- Drink enough fluids to keep your urine pale yellow.
- If you 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). Eat low-fiber foods that are high in protein and calories and avoid foods that can irritate your digestive tracts or lead to cramping.
- Ask your nurse or doctor about medicine that can lessen or stop your diarrhea.
- If you have numbness and tingling in your hands and feet, be careful when cooking, walking, and handling sharp objects and hot liquids.
- If you get a rash do not put anything on it unless your doctor or nurse says you may. Keep the area around the rash clean and dry. Ask your doctor for medicine if your rash bothers you.
- Keeping your pain under control is important to your well-being. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you are experiencing pain.

Food and Medicine Interactions

- This medicine may interact with grapefruit and grapefruit juice. Talk to your doctor as this could make side effects worse.
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist about all other prescription medicines and over-the-counter medicines and dietary supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbs, and others) you are taking before starting this medicine as there are known medicine interactions with fosaprepitant. Also, check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new prescription or over-the-counter medicines, or dietary supplements to make sure that there are no interactions.
- This medicine may interact with St. John's Wort and may lower the levels of the medicine in your body, which can make it less effective.
- This medicine interacts with hormonal birth control (i.e., birth control pills, skin patches, vaginal rings, injections) and affects how they work. Discuss with your doctor and/or nurse what method of birth control may be right for you during your treatment.
- There are known interactions of fosaprepitant with blood thinning medicine such as warfarin. Ask your doctor what precautions you should take.

When to Call the Doctor



Call your doctor or nurse 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
- Diarrhea, 4 times in one day or diarrhea with lack of strength or a feeling of being dizzy
- Numbness, tingling, or pain in your hands and feet
- Signs of a urinary tract infection such as burning or pain when you pass urine, difficulty urinating, smelly and/or cloudy urine, pain in your lower abdomen or lower/side of your back.
- Pain in your abdomen that does not go away
- Pain that does not go away, or is not relieved by prescribed medicine
- Signs of allergic reaction: swelling of the face, feeling like your tongue or throat are swelling, trouble breathing, rash, itching, fever, chills, feeling dizzy, and/or feeling that your heart is beating in a fast or not normal way. **If this happens, call 911 for emergency care.**
- While you are getting this medicine, please tell your nurse right away if you have any pain, redness, or swelling at the site of the IV infusion.
- If you think you may be pregnant

Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** It is not known if this medicine may harm an unborn child. For this reason, women of childbearing potential should use effective non-hormonal methods of birth control during your cancer treatment and for 1 month after stopping treatment. Let your doctor know right away if you think you may be pregnant.
- **Breastfeeding warning:** It is not known if this medicine passes into breast milk. For this reason, women should talk to their doctor about the risks and benefits of breastfeeding during treatment with this medicine because this medicine may enter the breast milk and cause harm to a breastfeeding baby.
- **Fertility warning:** Fertility studies have not been done with this medicine. Talk with your doctor or nurse if you plan to have children.

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