

Imetelstat (Rytelo)

About This Medicine

IMETELSTAT (im e TEL stat) treats myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), a type of blood and bone marrow cancer. It works by blocking a protein that causes cancer cells to grow and multiply. This helps to slow or stop the spread of cancer cells. It is given in the vein (IV).

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

Possible Side Effects

- Decrease in the number of white blood cells and platelets. This may raise your risk of infection and raise your risk of bleeding.
- Tiredness
- Longer blood clotting times. This means your blood is taking longer than usual to form clots.
- Changes in your liver function
- Bone, joint and muscle pain
- COVID-19 infection
- Headache

Note: Each of the side effects above was reported in 10% or greater of people treated with imetelstat. 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

- Severe decrease in the number of white blood cells and platelets.
- While you are getting this medicine in your vein (IV), you may have a reaction to the medicine. Sometimes you may be given medicine to stop or lessen these side effects. Your care team will check you closely for these signs: pain in your abdomen, joint/bone pain, back pain, diarrhea (loose bowel movements), increased blood pressure, headache, rash, redness, itching, chest tightness, or chest pain. These reactions may happen after your infusion. **If this happens, call 911 for emergency care.**

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

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.
- Get regular exercise, with your care team's approval. If you feel too tired to exercise vigorously, try taking a short walk.
- To decrease the risk of infection, 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.
- Infusion reactions may occur after your infusion. **If this happens, call 911 for emergency care.**
- Keeping your pain under control is important to your well-being. Please tell your care team if you are experiencing pain.

Food and Medicine Interactions

- There are no known interactions of imetelstat with food.
- This medicine may interact with other medicines. Tell your care team about all the prescription and over-the-counter 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 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
- Headache that does not go away



- Tiredness and/or extreme weakness that interferes with your daily activities
- Feeling dizzy or lightheaded
- Easy bleeding or bruising
- Cough that is bothersome
- Trouble breathing
- New loss of taste or smell
- Pain that does not go away, or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Signs of infusion reaction: pain in your abdomen, joint/bone pain, back pain, diarrhea (loose bowel movements), increased blood pressure, headache, rash, redness, itching, chest tightness, or chest pain. **If this happens, call 911 for emergency care.**
- 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

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 1 week after the last dose. Tell your care team right away if you think you 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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