

Nelarabine (Arranon)

About This Drug

NELARABINE (nel AR a been) treats leukemia and lymphoma. It works by slowing down the growth 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

- 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.
- Nausea and vomiting (throwing up)
- Constipation (not able to move bowels)
- Diarrhea (loose bowel movements)
- Tiredness
- Fever
- Feeling dizzy
- Headache
- Extreme tiredness or feeling sleepy
- This drug can have effects on the nerves which is called 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 drug. These effects get better in some people after the drug is stopped but it does not get better in all people.
- Cough
- Trouble breathing

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



- Seizure. Common symptoms of a seizure can include confusion, blacking out, passing out, loss of hearing or vision, blurred vision, unusual smells or tastes (such as burning rubber), trouble talking, tremors or shaking in parts or all of the body, repeated body movements, tense muscles that do not relax, and loss of control of urine and bowels. There are other less common symptoms of seizures. **If you or your family member suspects you are having a seizure, call 911 right away.**
- Changes in your central nervous system can happen, which may be life-threatening. The central nervous system is made up of your brain and spinal cord. You could feel extreme tiredness, agitation, confusion, hallucinations (see or hear things that are not there), trouble understanding or speaking, loss of control of your bowels or bladder, eyesight changes, numbness, or lack of strength to your arms, legs, face, or body, and coma. **If you start to have any of these symptoms let your care team know right away.**
- Neutropenic fever, a type of fever that can develop when you have a very low number of white blood cells.
- Tumor lysis syndrome: This drug may act on the cancer cells very quickly. This may affect how your kidneys work.

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.
- Talk to your care team before receiving any vaccinations during your treatment. Some vaccinations are not recommended while receiving nelarabine.
- This drug may impair your ability to drive or use machinery. Use caution and talk to your care team about any precautions you may need to take.

Treating Side Effects

- To decrease the risk of infections, wash your hands regularly.
- Take your temperature as your care team tells you, and whenever you feel like you may have a fever.
- Avoid close contact with people who have a cold, the flu, or other infections.
- To help decrease your 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.
- Manage tiredness by pacing your activities for the day.
- Be sure to include periods of rest between energy-draining activities.
- Drink enough fluids to keep your urine pale yellow.



- Keeping your pain under control is important to your well-being. Please tell your care team if you are experiencing pain.
- If you are dizzy, get up slowly after sitting or lying.
- 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.
- Ask your care team about medicine that can lessen or stop your diarrhea and/or constipation.
- If you are not able to move your bowels, check with your care team before you use enemas, laxatives, or suppositories.
- If you have numbness and tingling in your hands and feet, be careful when cooking, walking, and handling sharp objects and hot liquids.

Food and Drug Interactions

- There are no known interactions of nelarabine with food.
- This drug 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 if you have any of these symptoms and/or any new or unusual symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher
- Chills
- Blurry vision or other changes in eyesight
- Feeling dizzy or lightheaded
- Headache that does not go away
- Confusion or agitation
- Hallucinations
- Symptoms of a seizure: confusion, blacking out, passing out, loss of hearing or vision, blurred vision, unusual smells or tastes (such as burning rubber), trouble talking, tremors or shaking in parts or all of the body, repeated body movements, tense muscles that do not relax, and loss of control of urine and bowels. There are other less common symptoms of seizures. **If you or your family member suspects you are having a seizure, call 911 right away.**
- Trouble understanding or speaking
- Numbness or lack of strength to your arms, legs, face, or body
- Easy bleeding or bruising
- Wheezing and/or trouble breathing



- Cough that is bothersome
- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking and/or that is not relieved by prescribed medicine
- Throwing up more than 3 times a day
- Diarrhea, 4 times in one day or diarrhea with weakness or lightheadedness
- No bowel movement for 3 days or you feel uncomfortable
- Tiredness that interferes with your daily activities
- Numbness, tingling, or pain in your hands and feet
- Signs of tumor lysis: confusion or agitation, decreased urine, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, muscle cramping, numbness and/or tingling, seizures.

Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** This medicine can cause serious birth defects. If you can become pregnant, use birth control while taking this medicine. If you can get your partner pregnant, use a condom (even if you have had a vasectomy) 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:** Talk with your care team about breastfeeding during treatment. You may need to stop breastfeeding.
- **Fertility warning:** The effect of this medicine on fertility is not known. If you plan to have children, talk with your care team.

Reviewed March 2026

