

Tretinoin (All-trans retinoic acid)

About This Medicine

TRETINOIN (TRET i noe in) treats some types of cancer. It works by slowing down the growth of cancer cells. It belongs to a group of medications called retinoids. It is given orally (by mouth).

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

Possible Side Effects

- An increase in your white blood cells
- Dry mouth, nose
- Nausea and vomiting (throwing up)
- Pain in your abdomen
- Abnormal bleeding – symptoms may be coughing up blood, throwing up blood (may look like coffee grounds), red or black tarry bowel movements, abnormally heavy menstrual flow, nosebleeds, or any other unusual bleeding.
- Fever
- Chills
- General discomfort, a feeling of being unwell
- Swelling in your legs, ankles, and/or feet
- Infection
- Upper respiratory tract problems
- Trouble breathing
- Headache
- General pain and/or pain in your bones
- Pain in your chest
- Dry skin
- Rash

Note: Each of the side effects above was reported in 30% or greater of people treated with tretinoin. 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

- Increase in your cholesterol and your triglyceride levels
- A rapid increase in your white blood cells, which may be life-threatening
- Changes in your liver function
- Blood clots and events such as stroke and heart attack. A blood clot in your leg may cause your leg to swell, appear red and warm, and/or cause pain. A blood clot in your lungs may cause trouble breathing, pain when breathing, and/or chest pain.
- Increase pressure inside of your skull. You may have a headache, double or blurry vision, temporary blindness that may last a few seconds affecting one or both eyes, nausea and vomiting (throwing up), ringing in the ears.
- A serious syndrome may happen with the use of this medicine that is known as differentiation syndrome, which can be life-threatening. It can cause fever, weight gain, swelling, and breathing problems. **Immediately report any of these symptoms to your healthcare provider.**

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 impair your ability to drive or use machinery. Use caution and talk to your care team about any precautions you may need to take.

How to Take Your Medicine

- Take the medicine whole, with water and a meal. Do not chew, dissolve, or open capsules.
- **Missed dose:** If you miss a dose, and it is less than 10 hours until your next dose, then skip the missed dose and go back to your normal schedule. If you miss a dose, and it is more than 10 hours until your next dose, take the missed dose. Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses. Do not replace a vomited dose.
- **Overdosage:** If you think you have taken too much of this medicine contact a poison control center or emergency room at once.
- **Handling:** Wash your hands with soap and water, before and after handling your medicine. Your caretakers should not handle your medicine with bare hands and should wear latex gloves.
- 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.
- **Storage:** Store this medicine in the original container at room temperature. Protect from light. Keep out of the reach of children and pets.
- **Disposal of unused medicine:** Do not flush any expired and/or unused medicine down the toilet or drain unless you are specifically instructed to do so on the medicine label. Some facilities have

take-back programs and/or other options. If you do not have a take-back program in your area, then please discuss with your care team how to dispose of unused medicine.

Treating Side Effects

- To help with dry skin, moisturize your skin several times a day.
- Avoid sun exposure and apply sunscreen routinely when outdoors.
- If you get a rash do not put anything on it unless your care team says you may. Keep the area around the rash clean and dry. Ask your care team for medicine if your rash bothers you.
- Keeping your pain under control is important to your well-being. Please tell your care team if you are experiencing pain.
- Drink enough fluids to keep your urine pale yellow.
- Sugar-free hard candies and chewing gum can keep your mouth moist.
- If you throw up, 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.
- 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 doctor or care team tells you, and whenever you feel like you may have a fever.

Food and Medicine Interactions

- This medicine may interact with grapefruit and grapefruit juice. Talk to your care team as this could make side effects worse.
- Check with your care team 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 tretinoin. 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.
- 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.
- Avoid the use of vitamin A supplements while taking tretinoin.

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
- Headache that does not go away



- Ringing in the ear
- Blurry vision or changes in your eyesight
- Signs of abnormal bleeding such as coughing up blood, throwing up blood (may look like coffee grounds), easy bleeding or bruising, red or black tarry bowel movements, abnormally heavy menstrual flow, nosebleeds, or any other unusual bleeding
- Cough, wheezing and/or trouble breathing
- Chest pain or symptoms of a heart attack. Most heart attacks involve pain in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes. The pain may go away and come back, or it can be constant. It can feel like pressure, squeezing, fullness, or pain. Sometimes pain is felt in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw, or stomach. **If any of these symptoms last 2 minutes, call 911.**
- Symptoms of a stroke such as sudden numbness or weakness of your face, arm, or leg, mostly on one side of your body; sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden trouble walking, feeling dizzy, loss of balance or coordination; or sudden, bad headache with no known cause. **If you have any of these symptoms for 2 minutes, call 911.**
- Pain that does not go away or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Trouble eating/swallowing
- Sore mouth/throat
- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking and/or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Throwing up more than 3 times a day
- Pain in your abdomen and/or flank area that does not go away
- Decreased urine or difficulty urinating
- Signs of differentiation syndrome such as fever, weight gain, swelling, and/or trouble breathing. **Immediately report any of these symptoms to your healthcare provider.**
- New rash and/or dry skin that is bothersome
- Rash that is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Your leg is swollen, red, warm and/or painful
- Weight gain of 5 pounds in one week (fluid retention)
- Swelling in your legs, ankles, and/or feet
- Signs of infection: fever or chills, cough, trouble breathing, severe pain in your abdomen, difficulty urinating, burning or pain when you pass urine, redness and/or swelling of the skin
- 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, you should abstain from sexual intercourse or use 2 forms of birth control while taking this medicine and for 1 month after the last dose. Follow these precautions even if you have a history of infertility (unless you have had a hysterectomy). If you can get your partner 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 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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