PACKAGE LEAFLET

Package leaflet: Information for the user

Dacarbazine Lipomed 500 mg powder for solution for infusion

Dacarbazine

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start receiving this medicine because it contains important information for you.
- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet

1. What Dacarbazine Lipomed is and what it is used for

Dacarbazine belongs to the group of medicines known as cytostatic agents. These agents influence the growth of cancer cells.

Dacarbazine Lipomed has been prescribed by your doctor for the treatment of cancer, such as advanced malignant melanoma (skin cancer), advanced Hodgkin's disease (cancer of the lymph tissue) or advanced adult soft tissue sarcoma (cancer of muscles, fat, fibrous tissue, blood vessels or other supporting tissue of the body). Dacarbazine Lipomed can be given in combination with other cytostatic agents.

2. What you need to know before you receive Dacarbazine Lipomed

You must not receive Dacarbazine Lipomed:
- if you are allergic to dacarbazine or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6),
- if the number of white blood cells and/or platelets in your blood is too low (leukopenia and/or thrombocytopenia),
- if you have a severe liver or kidney disease,
- if you are pregnant or breast-feeding,
- in combination with yellow fever vaccine.

Warnings and precautions
Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before you are given Dacarbazine Lipomed.

Before each administration you will have blood tests to check that you have enough blood cells to receive this medicine. Your liver and kidney function will also be monitored.

You should not have a live vaccine if you are having Dacarbazine Lipomed. This is because Dacarbazine Lipomed may weaken your immune system and make you more likely to catch a serious infection.

You should not use fotemustine if you are being treated with Dacarbazine Lipomed.

Other medicines and Dacarbazine Lipomed
Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

It is not advisable to use any medical treatment without telling your doctor as there may be interactions between Dacarbazine Lipomed and other medicines.
In particular, tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you are using or are being treated with any of the following:

- Radiation treatment or other medicines to reduce tumour growth (chemotherapy). Using these medicines with Dacarbazine Lipomed can increase the damage to your bone marrow.
- Other medicines that are metabolised by a system of liver enzymes called cytochrome P450.
- Methoxypsoralen (for skin problems such as psoriasis and eczema) – Having Dacarbazine Lipomed with methoxypsoralen can make you more sensitive to sunlight (photosensitisation).
- Phenytoin (used to treat seizures) – Using Dacarbazine Lipomed and phenytoin at the same time may make it more likely for you to have fits (convulsions).
- Cyclosporin or tacrolimus (used to lower your body's immune reactions) – These medicines may weaken your immune system.
- Fotemustine (used for treatment of skin cancer) – Using Dacarbazine Lipomed and fotemustine at the same time may lead to damage to your lungs.
- Medicines that can cause liver damage e.g. diazepam (used to treat anxiety, muscle spasms and convulsions), imipramine (used to treat symptoms of depression), ketoconazole (used to treat fungal infections), carbamazepine (used to prevent fits, modify some types of pain or to control mood disorders) should be avoided during chemotherapy.
- Anticoagulants (medicines used to prevent formation of blood clots) – Your doctor will decide whether these medicines will be given to you and will check the clotting tendency of your blood.

You should not have a live vaccine if you are having Dacarbazine Lipomed and during 3 months following completion of treatment with Dacarbazine Lipomed. This is because Dacarbazine Lipomed may weaken your immune system and make you more likely to catch a serious infection.
You may have a 'killed' or inactivated vaccine if you are having Dacarbazine Lipomed.

Dacarbazine Lipomed with food, drink and alcohol
Do not eat just before receiving Dacarbazine Lipomed. This will help to avoid feeling sick or being sick. During chemotherapy, you should not drink alcohol.

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility
Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking or receiving any medicine.

Dacarbazine Lipomed must not be administered to you if you are pregnant or if you are planning to become pregnant. You must take adequate contraceptive precautions during therapy.

You must not breast-feed while you are treated with Dacarbazine Lipomed.

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding or if you assume that you are pregnant or if you think of becoming pregnant, ask your doctor for advice before receiving this medicine.

During treatment with Dacarbazine Lipomed and also for 6 months after cessation of therapy, men are advised to take safe contraceptive measures.

Driving and using machines
Your ability to drive or operate machines may be influenced because of central nervous side effects (undesired effects on the brain and nerves) or feeling sick and being sick. However, there is no reason why you cannot drive or use machines between courses of therapy with Dacarbazine Lipomed unless you feel dizzy or unsure of yourself.

3. How to use Dacarbazine Lipomed

This medicine will be given to you under the direction of a physician specialised in oncology (cancer treatment), having the facilities for regular monitoring of all clinical effects, during and after your therapy.

Dacarbazine is a substance sensitive to light exposure. The doctor or nurse giving you this medicine will make sure that dacarbazine will be protected from exposure to daylight during administration.

Immediately before you receive it, Dacarbazine Lipomed powder will be dissolved in 50 ml of water for injections. The resulting solution will be further diluted with 200 – 300 ml isotonic sodium chloride or glucose 5% solution and will be given to you by intravenous infusion (infusion into a vein) within 20 – 30 minutes.

The dose will depend on your blood counts and concurrent chemotherapy. Your doctor will calculate your dose taking into consideration your body surface area (m^2), blood counts and other anticancer medicines or therapies given.

Your doctor may change the dose and frequency of dosing. This depends on your blood test, your general condition, further therapies and your response to Dacarbazine Lipomed. If you have any questions about your treatment, ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

Use in children and adolescents
No special recommendations for the use of Dacarbazine Lipomed in children and adolescents can be given to your doctor until further data become available.

If you have any further questions on the use of this product, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. Your doctor will discuss this with you and will explain the risks and benefits of your treatment.

Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following side effects:
- Signs of infection, such as sore throat and high temperature.
- Abnormal bruising or bleeding.
- Extreme tiredness.
- Persistent or severe vomiting or diarrhoea.
- Severe allergic reaction – you may experience a sudden itchy rash (hives), swelling of the hands, feet, ankles, face, lips, mouth or throat (which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing), and you may feel you are going to faint.
- Yellowing of the skin and eyes because of liver problems.
- Signs of brain-related or nerve-related problems, such as headaches, impaired vision, fits, confusion, lethargy (state of being apathetic) or numbness and tingling of your face.

These are all serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention.

In the following all known undesirable effects are listed:

Common side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)
- Anaemia (decreased number of red blood cells).
- Leukopenia (decreased number of white blood cells).
- Thrombocytopenia (decreased number of platelets in the blood).

The changes in blood counts are dose-dependent and delayed. The lowest values often only occur after 3 to 4 weeks.

- Anorexia (loss of appetite), feeling sick and being sick. All of these side effects may be severe.
- Bone marrow suppression (decreased formation of all blood cells in the bone marrow).

Uncommon side effects (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)

- Alopecia (hair loss).
- Hyperpigmentation (increased skin colouring).
- Photosensitivity (increased sensitivity of your skin to sunlight).
- Flu-like symptoms with exhaustion, chills, fever and muscular pain, occasionally during or often only days after dacarbazine administration. These disturbances may recur with the next infusion.
- Infections.
- Transient rash.
- Blurred vision.
- Hepatotoxicity (liver damage).

Rare side effects (may affect up to 1 in 1000 people)

- Pancytopenia (decreased number of all cells in the blood).
- Agranulocytosis (severely decreased number of granulocytes, a special type of white blood cells).
- Anaphylactic reactions (severe allergic reaction resulting in e.g. drop in blood pressure, swelling of the hands, feet, ankles, face, lips, mouth and throat which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing, rapid pulse, hives and generalised itching or skin redness).
- Headaches.
- Impaired vision.
- Confusion.
- Lethargy (state of being apathetic).
- Convulsions (fits).
- Facial paraesthesia (abnormal sensations of the face), numbness and flushing of the face shortly after injection.
- Diarrhoea.
- Veno-occlusive disease (VOD) (severe disease of the liver due to obstruction of the liver blood vessels) with hepatic necrosis (destruction of liver cells) which can be life-threatening. Symptoms include fever, abdominal pain, enlarged liver and yellowing of the skin. If this complication is suspected, your doctor will consider appropriate treatment.
- Elevation of liver enzymes.
- Impaired kidney function.
- Erythema (red skin).
- Maculopapular exanthema (skin eruptions).
- Urticaria (hives).
- Application site irritation.

If this medicine is accidentally administered into the tissue around your vein, it will be painful and there will be tissue damage.

You may experience one or several of these symptoms, be sure to inform your doctor if you do.

Reporting of side effects
If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the national reporting system:
HPRA Pharmacovigilance
Earlsfort Terrace
IRL - Dublin 2
Tel: +353 1 6764971
Fax: +353 1 6762517
Website: www.hpra.ie
E-mail: medsafety@hpra.ie

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Dacarbazine Lipomed

Do not store above 25 °C. Keep the vial in the outer carton in order to protect from light.

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the label and carton after "EXP". The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Dacarbazine Lipomed is for single use only.
Any portion of the contents remaining after use should be discarded by your doctor, nurse or pharmacist. The same applies to solutions where the visual appearance of the product has changed.
The diluted solution for infusion should be visually inspected by your doctor, nurse or pharmacist and only clear solutions practically free from particles should be used.

Shelf life of the reconstituted solution
Chemical and physical in-use stability has been demonstrated for 8 hours at room temperature and protected from light and for 5 days at 2 to 8 °C and protected from light. From a microbiological point of view, the reconstituted solution should be used immediately.
If the reconstituted solution is not used immediately, the duration and conditions of storage are the responsibility of the user. The reconstituted solution should not be stored for longer than 24 hours in a refrigerator (2 to 8 °C) and protected from light, unless the reconstitution has taken place under controlled and validated aseptic conditions.

Shelf life of the diluted solution for infusion
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If the diluted solution for infusion is not used immediately, the duration and conditions of storage are the responsibility of the user. The diluted solution for infusion should not be stored for longer than 24 hours in a refrigerator (2 to 8 °C) and protected from light, unless the reconstitution and dilution have taken place under controlled and validated aseptic conditions.

From a microbiological point of view it is recommended not to exceed a total storage time of 24 hours after opening of the product.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What Dacarbazine Lipomed contains
- The active substance is dacarbazine (as dacarbazine citrate).
- The other ingredients are citric acid monohydrate and mannitol.

What Dacarbazine Lipomed looks like and contents of the pack
The pharmaceutical Dacarbazine Lipomed is a white lyophilized powder which is supplied in brown injection vials (hydrolytical class I) closed with grey bromobutyl rubber lyophilisation stoppers. Vials containing Dacarbazine Lipomed 500 mg are aluminium crimped with grey flip-off caps.

Each single-dose vial of Dacarbazine Lipomed 500 mg contains 500 mg dacarbazine, as dacarbazine citrate.
After reconstitution of Dacarbazine Lipomed 500 mg with 50 ml of water for injections, 1 ml of solution contains 10 mg dacarbazine.

Before reconstitution, Dacarbazine Lipomed is a white lyophilized powder. Reconstituted solutions are clear and pale yellow. Diluted solutions for infusion are clear and almost colourless.

Dacarbazine Lipomed 500 mg is packed in boxes. Each box contains 1 vial.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer
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Fax: +49 7621 1693 474
E-mail: lipomed@lipomed.com

This medicine is authorised in the Member States of the European Economic Area under the following names:

Austria: Dacarbazin Lipomed 500 mg Pulver zur Herstellung einer Infusionslösung
Germany: Dacarbazin Lipomed 500 mg Pulver zur Herstellung einer Infusionslösung
France: Dacarbazine Lipomed 500 mg poudre pour solution pour perfusion
Italy: Dacarbazina Lipomed 500 mg polvere per soluzione per infusione
Denmark: Dacarbazine Lipomed 500 mg pulver til infusionsvæske, opløsning
Finland: Dacarbazine Lipomed 500 mg infuusiokuiva-aine liuosta varten
Norway: Dacarbazine Lipomed 500 mg pulver til infusjonsvæske, oppløsning
Ireland: Dacarbazine Lipomed 500 mg powder for solution for infusion
Hungary: Dacarbazine Lipomed 500 mg por oldatos infúzióhoz

This leaflet was last revised in August 2022.

The following information is intended for healthcare professionals only:

Dacarbazine is an anti-neoplastic agent. Before commencing, local cytotoxic guidelines should be referred to.

Dacarbazine solutions should only be prepared by trained staff and as with all cytotoxic agents precautions should be taken to avoid exposing staff. Handling of cytotoxic drugs should be generally avoided during pregnancy. Preparation of solution for administration should be carried out in a designated handling area and working over a washable tray or disposable plastic-backed absorbent paper. Suitable eye protection, disposable gloves, face mask and disposable apron should be worn. Syringes and infusion sets should be assembled carefully to avoid leakage (use of Luer lock fittings is recommended).

On completion of the work, any exposed surface should be thoroughly cleaned and hands and face washed.

In the event of spillage, operators should put on gloves, face masks, eye protection and disposable apron and mop up the spilled material with an absorbent material tapped in the working area for that purpose. The area should then be cleaned and all contaminated material transferred to a cytotoxic spillage bag or bin or sealed for incineration.

Reconstituted solutions should be suitably protected from light also during administration (light-resistant infusion set).

Shelf life of the reconstituted solution
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