

# Xeloda<sup>®</sup> (zel-o-da)

*Also Known As: Capecitabine*

## How It Is Given:

Orally (by mouth)

## Early Side Effects (beginning within one week) Can Include:

- Nausea and vomiting.
- Diarrhea, which can be severe.
- Mouth sores.
- Loss of appetite.
- Abdominal pain.
- Fatigue.
- Swelling in your hands and feet.
- Heart damage (very rare).

## Late Side Effects (beginning after one week) Can Include:

- A temporary decrease in blood cell counts two to three weeks after treatment. White blood cells and platelets are mostly affected.
- A change in liver function. It usually returns to normal when the drug is stopped.
- A skin rash or tingling sensation on the hands and feet. This is called hand-foot syndrome.

## Special Points:

- This medicine can have a bad effect on an unborn child. Ask your doctor or nurse about the type of birth control you should use. Tell your doctor immediately if you think you or your partner might be pregnant.
- Speak to your doctor before you get any vaccines, such as the flu vaccine.
- Aspirin, ibuprofen, and vitamin E can cause bleeding problems. Do not take medicine that has them unless your doctor says it is okay. Your nurse will give you a fact card that tells you what drugs you cannot take and what you can use instead.
- Tell your doctor if you are taking Coumadin<sup>®</sup> (warfarin).
- Tell your doctor or nurse if you are also taking any:
  - other medicines that do or do not require a prescription.
  - herbal remedies.
  - vitamins.
  - dietary supplements.

Some of these may change the way this drug works.

- Let your doctor know of any change in your medicines.

- If you have been told to take medicine for diarrhea, take it as instructed.
- Follow your doctor's or nurse's instructions on how to care for your mouth.

### **Call Your Doctor or Nurse If You:**

- Have diarrhea that is frequent or doesn't get better.
- Have nausea that is frequent or doesn't get better.
- Have any sign of bleeding. This includes:
  - black bowel movements.
  - bruising.
  - faint red rash.
  - other signs of bleeding.
- Develop mouth sores.
- Develop hand-foot syndrome.
- Have unexplained weight gain or swelling in the hands or feet.
- Have a fever of 100.4° F (38.0° C) or higher.
- Have any questions or concerns.

The information on this card is selective and does not cover all possible side effects; others may occur. Please report any problems to your doctor.