PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Bendamustine

This information from Lexicomp® explains what you need to know about this medication, including what it’s used for, how to take it, its side effects, and when to call your healthcare provider.

Brand Names: US
Belrapzo; Bendeka; Treanda

Brand Names: Canada
Treanda

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat a type of leukemia.
- It is used to treat a type of lymphoma.
- It may be given to you for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?

- If you are allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.
- If you have any of these health problems: Kidney disease or liver disease.
- If you are breast-feeding. Do not breast-feed while you take this drug and for 1 week after your last dose.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your drugs (prescription or OTC,
natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take this drug with all of your drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug without checking with your doctor.

**What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?**

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Avoid driving and doing other tasks or actions that call for you to be alert until you see how this drug affects you.
- Have blood work checked as you have been told by the doctor. Talk with the doctor.
- If you smoke, talk with your doctor.
- Constipation, diarrhea, throwing up, and upset stomach are common with this drug. If these happen, talk with your doctor about ways to lower these side effects. Call your doctor right away if any of these effects bother you, do not go away, or get very bad.
- This drug may lower the ability of your bone marrow to make blood cells that your body needs. This can lead to needing a blood transfusion and very bad and sometimes deadly bleeding problems or infections. Tell your doctor right away if you have signs of infection like fever, chills, or sore throat; any bruising or bleeding; or if you feel very tired or weak.
- You may bleed more easily. Be careful and avoid injury. Use a soft toothbrush and an electric razor.
- You may have more chance of getting an infection. Wash hands often. Stay away from people with infections, colds, or flu.
- Some patients have very bad side effects during the infusion. Tell your doctor if you have any bad effects during the infusion.
- Other types of cancer may rarely happen later in life.
• Very bad and sometimes deadly liver problems have happened with this drug. Call your doctor right away if you have signs of liver problems like dark urine, feeling tired, not hungry, upset stomach or stomach pain, light-colored stools, throwing up, or yellow skin or eyes.

• Heart problems like heart failure have happened in people taking this drug. Sometimes, this has been deadly. Call your doctor right away if you have chest pain or pressure, a heartbeat that does not feel normal, shortness of breath, a big weight gain, or swelling in the arms or legs.

• A severe and sometimes deadly reaction has happened. Most of the time, this reaction has signs like fever, rash, or swollen glands with problems in body organs like the liver, kidney, blood, heart, muscles and joints, or lungs. If you have questions, talk with the doctor.

• This drug may affect being able to father a child. In some people, this may go back to normal but may take some time. Talk with the doctor.

• This drug may cause harm to an unborn baby. A pregnancy test will be done before you start this drug to show that you are NOT pregnant.

• Women must use birth control while taking this drug and for some time after the last dose. Ask your doctor how long to use birth control. If you get pregnant, call your doctor right away.

• Men with a partner who may get pregnant must use birth control while taking this drug and for some time after the last dose. Ask your doctor how long to use birth control. If your partner gets pregnant, call the doctor right away.

What are some side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?

**WARNING/CAUTION:** Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

• Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat;
trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of
the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.

- Signs of fluid and electrolyte problems like mood changes, confusion, muscle
  pain or weakness, a heartbeat that does not feel normal, very bad dizziness or
  passing out, fast heartbeat, more thirst, seizures, feeling very tired or weak, not
  hungry, unable to pass urine or change in the amount of urine produced, dry
  mouth, dry eyes, or very bad upset stomach or throwing up.

- Low mood (depression).

- Patients with cancer who take this drug may be at a greater risk of getting a
  severe health problem called tumor lysis syndrome (TLS). This may lead to
death. Call your doctor right away if you have a fast or abnormal heartbeat; any
  passing out; trouble passing urine; muscle weakness or cramps; upset
  stomach, throwing up, diarrhea, or not able to eat; or feel sluggish.

- A very bad skin reaction (Stevens-Johnson syndrome/toxic epidermal
  necrolysis) may happen. It can cause very bad health problems that may not go
  away, and sometimes death. Get medical help right away if you have signs like
  red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin (with or without fever); red or irritated
  eyes; or sores in your mouth, throat, nose, or eyes.

- This drug may cause tissue damage if the drug leaks from the vein. Tell your
  nurse if you have any redness, burning, pain, swelling, blisters, skin sores, or
  leaking of fluid where the drug is going into your body.

**What are some other side effects of this drug?**

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or
only have minor side effects. Call your doctor or get medical help if any of these
side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

- Feeling dizzy, sleepy, tired, or weak.
- Stomach pain or heartburn.
- Back pain.
- Bone or joint pain.
• Headache.
• Trouble sleeping.
• Not hungry.
• Weight loss.
• Mouth irritation or mouth sores.
• Nose or throat irritation.
• Change in taste.
• Anxiety.
• Night sweats.
• Sweating a lot.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-332-1088. You may also report side effects at https://www.fda.gov/medwatch.

How is this drug best taken?
Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

• It is given as an infusion into a vein over a period of time.
• Other drugs may be given to help with infusion side effects.

What do I do if I miss a dose?
• Call your doctor to find out what to do.

How do I store and/or throw out this drug?
• If you need to store this drug at home, talk with your doctor, nurse, or
pharmacist about how to store it.

**General drug facts**

- If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.
- Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else’s drugs.
- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. Check with your pharmacist. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

**Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer**

This information should not be used to decide whether or not to take this medicine or any other medicine. Only the healthcare provider has the knowledge and training to decide which medicines are right for a specific patient. This information does not endorse any medicine as safe, effective, or approved for treating any patient or health condition. This is only a brief summary of general information about this medicine. It does NOT include all information about the possible uses, directions, warnings, precautions, interactions, adverse effects, or risks that may apply to this medicine. This information is not specific medical advice and does not replace information you receive from the healthcare provider. You must talk with
the healthcare provider for complete information about the risks and benefits of using this medicine.

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For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.