PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Commonly Used Medicine During Pediatric Stem Cell Transplants

This information lists medicine that are often used before, during, or after a pediatric stem cell transplant. Your healthcare provider will talk with you about the medicine you're taking, including their names and why you need to take them. In this resource, the word "you" means you or your child.

Supplements

- Folic acid: a vitamin your body needs to make normal blood cells.
- Potassium chloride/potassium phosphorus: a potassium supplement. Your body needs potassium for your muscles (including your heart) to work properly.
- Magnesium oxide/magnesium soy: magnesium supplements. Your heart needs magnesium to work the way it should.
- Multivitamin: a vitamin supplement that may or may not have iron.
- Vitamin K: a vitamin that your body needs so that your blood can clot.

GVHD prevention

These medicines are used to prevent or treat graft-versus-host disease (GVHD). Examples include:

- mycophenolate mofetil (CellCept®)
- cyclosporine (Neoral®)
- tacrolimus (Prograf®)
- sirolimus (Rapamune®)

- methotrexate (at a low dose)

Antivirals

These medicines are used to prevent or treat viral infections (such as chicken pox and shingles). Other viral infections sometimes seen during transplant include cytomegalovirus (CMV), human herpes virus (HHV6), adenovirus, and BK virus. Examples include:

- acyclovir (Zovirax®)
- foscarnet (Foscavir®)
- ganciclovir (Cytovene®)
- cidofovir (Vistide®)
- letermovir (Prevymis®)
- valganciclovir (Valcyte®)

Antifungals

These medicines are used to prevent or treat fungal infections. Examples include:

- fluconazole (Diflucan®)
- amphotericin (AmBisome®)
- voriconazole (Vfend®)
- micafungin (Mycamine®)
- posaconazole (Noxafil®)
- isavuconazonium (Cresemba®)

Antinausea

These medicines are used to prevent or treat nausea (feeling like you're going to throw up) and vomiting (throwing up). Examples include:

- ondansetron (Zofran®)
- hydroxyzine (Vistaril®)
- metoclopramide (Reglan®)
- granisetron (Kytril®)
- lorazepam (Ativan®)
- dronabinol (Marinol®)
- fosaprepitant (Emend®)
- diphenhydramine (Benadryl®)

Antacids

These medicines are used to lower stomach acid secretions. Examples include:

- pantoprazole (Protonix®)
- lansoprazole (Prevacid®)
- ranitidine (Zantac®)
- omeprazole (Prilosec®)
- esomeprazole magnesium (Nexium®)

Pain medicine

These medicines are used to manage pain and discomfort. You can take them orally (by mouth), intravenously (through a vein), or transdermally (using skin patches). You may also get pain medicine through a special pump called "Patient Controlled Analgesia (PCA)." A PCA lets you give yourself a safe and controlled dose of medicine. Examples of pain medicine include:

- Opioids, such as morphine (DepoDur®, Duramorph, MS Contin®), Hydromorphone (Dilaudid®), or fentanyl (Duragesic®, Subsys®)
- Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, such as Acetaminophen (Tylenol ®)

Hormones (for females)

These medicines are used to prevent vaginal bleeding when your platelet count is very low. Examples include:

- norgestrel (Ovral®)
- norgestrel and ethinyl estradiol (Lo-Ovral®)
- medroxyprogesterone acetate (Provera®)
- leuprolide (Lupron®)
- medroxyprogesterone acetate (Depo-Provera®)

If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

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

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