

Regional Oncology Unit

ORAL TIOGUANINE (Also known as Lanvis®)

Information for Parents, Carers and Young People

This patient information leaflet provides information on the use of tioguanine in children and young people with cancer.

What is Tioguanine?

Tioguanine is a medicine used in the treatment of Cancer and leukaemia.

What does oral Tioguanine look like?

Tioguanine is available as 40mg tablets. A liquid is also available, tioguanine 50mg/5ml.

Where can I get Tioguanine from?

Tioguanine should only be obtained from Alder Hey Hospital. Remember to bring it with you at each hospital visit (Alder Hey or local hospital).

How is Tioguanine given?

For the treatment of leukaemia tioguanine is given by mouth once a day, one hour after food in the evening. Milk products should be avoided for one hour before and after taking tioguanine as these affect how tioguanine is absorbed.

For other types of cancer take as directed by your doctor, nurse or pharmacist. Liquid medicine should be measured in an oral syringe through a bung in the neck of the bottle (supplied by Pharmacy). Use a new syringe for each dose.

Handling and storage

- Keep out of reach and sight of children
- Keep out of direct sunlight
- Store at room temperature
- Handle as little as possible and always wear the gloves provided. (Please see section in your Family Held Record about *How to give oral cytotoxic medicines*)

Side effects

It is important to remember that everyone reacts differently to chemotherapy. Some will have very few side effects whilst others will have more.

The side effects listed below will not affect everyone who has tioguanine and may be different if more than one chemotherapy drug is given.

What are the most common side effects?

- **Reduced bone marrow function**

This can cause anaemia, bruising or bleeding and infection. Full blood counts will be checked regularly to see how the bone marrow is working. Please contact the Oncology

Unit if unusually tired, there is bruising, bleeding, or any signs of infection, especially a high temperature.

What are the less common side effects?

- **Diarrhoea**

- If diarrhoea occurs which is not controlled, contact the Oncology Unit.

- **Nausea and Vomiting**

Anti-sickness drugs can be given to reduce or prevent these symptoms. Please contact the Oncology Unit if sickness is not controlled.

- **Temporary effect on liver function**

Tioguanine can cause changes to liver function. This should return to normal when the treatment is finished. If yellowing of the skin or eyes occurs contact the Oncology Unit for advice. Blood tests may be taken to monitor liver function.

- **Mouth ulcers**

The mouth may become sore or you may notice small ulcers. Please refer to the mouth care section in the Family Held Record.

- **Taste changes**

Food may taste different. Normal taste will usually come back after the treatment finishes.

Tests/investigations which may take place before, during or after treatment with tioguanine.

Full blood count/Oncology Profile

A full blood count will be done at each hospital visit. The dose of tioguanine will be adjusted according to the result. The full blood count result and dose of tioguanine will be recorded on an Oral Chemotherapy Record.

The oncology profile will usually be done every 12 weeks and includes liver function tests to show how the liver is working.

Is there anything else I should know about or do?

Contact the Oncology Unit if:

- A dose of tioguanine is forgotten.
- Vomiting occurs after taking the dose.
- Too much tioguanine is given.

Any tioguanine that has not been given should be returned to the hospital do not throw away at home.

Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about treatment. If you have any questions about tioguanine please contact the Oncology Unit. This leaflet should be read with any manufacturers' patient information. You must always discuss individual treatment with the appropriate member of staff. Always tell the prescriber before taking any other medication including herbal or complementary medicines.

Further information is available on the following websites. (This information may not include advice on use in children or young people).

www.xpil.medicines.org.uk

www.cancerbackup.org.uk

Please note: Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust is neither liable for the contents of any external internet site listed, nor does it endorse any commercial product or service mentioned or advised on any of the sites.

This leaflet can be made available in other languages and formats if requested.

This leaflet only gives general information. You must always discuss the individual treatment of your child with the appropriate member of staff. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about your child's treatment. This information can be made available in other languages and formats if requested.

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