

Oxaliplatin Eloxatin®

Oxaliplatin is a cancer-fighting (chemotherapy) medicine that is used to treat colon, rectal, pancreas, stomach and ovarian cancers. It is given as an intravenous infusion (into a vein).

Special Instructions

Before you take this medication, tell your doctor if:

- You are pregnant or think you are pregnant, or if you are breastfeeding
- You have any type of infection (bacterial, viral or fungal), or any form of kidney or liver disease
- You have any type of bleeding problem or blood disorder
- You have ever had an unusual reaction to medicine
- You have ever had peripheral neuropathy (nerve damage)

Tell your doctor about any medications you are taking, including non-prescription medicines (over-the-counter), nutritional supplements, vitamins, minerals or herbal products. Oxaliplatin may not mix well with other medicines. Talk with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new medication or stopping any current medications.

Talk to your doctor before getting any vaccines (such as flu shots).

Talk to your doctor or nurse about effective forms of birth control you should use while taking this medicine. Oxaliplatin may cause birth defects or miscarriage if taken during pregnancy. If you are not having your period or if you are having symptoms of menopause, you may still become pregnant.

Side Effects

- Infusion-related reactions
 - If you experience any of the following side effects while in the clinic, tell your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist **immediately**. Your doctor may give you medicine to help you feel better.
 - Tightness in your throat or chest
 - Shortness of breath
 - Rapid heart beat
 - Low blood pressure

- Fever, chills and severe shaking
- Headache, dizziness and weakness
- Skin rash, itching
- Chest pain, back pain, abdominal pain, and pain at the injection and/or tumor site
- Nausea and vomiting
- Facial flushing
- Go to the nearest emergency room if you experience any of the following side effects after you leave the clinic:
 - Fever of 101°F (38.3°C) or higher
 - Severe shaking and/or chills
 - Chest Pain
 - Sudden shortness of breath or increased shortness of breath
 - Tightness in your throat or chest
- Numbness, pain or tingling in your hands, feet, arms, legs, mouth or throat
 - Exposure to cold air may increase your chance of experiencing this side effect. Avoid cold temperatures and breathing cold air for up to 5 days after your oxaliplatin infusion. If you must go outside in cold temperatures, wear a scarf around your mouth and nose, and cover your skin with warm clothing.
 - **Do not** drink cold beverages or use ice cubes or chew on ice chips, because it may cause you to have trouble breathing or swallowing. Drink fluids warm or at room temperature for up to 5 days after your infusion.
 - Touching cold items may increase your chance of experiencing this side effect. Wear gloves when taking things from the freezer or refrigerator for up to 5 days after your infusion.
 - Always wear shoes or slippers to protect your feet when walking.
 - Before taking a shower or bath, test the temperature of the water with your elbow.
 - Tell your doctor if you need treatment for your pain or if you have difficulty walking or using your hands (such as while buttoning clothes).
- Nausea, vomiting and/or appetite loss
 - Ask your doctor about medicines to relieve nausea.
 - Tell your doctor or nurse **immediately** if you experience severe nausea or vomiting and cannot keep food or water in your stomach.
 - Drink 8 to 12 eight-ounce glasses (2 to 3 liters) of non-alcoholic, non-caffeinated fluids each day to avoid becoming dehydrated.
 - Eat when you are hungry. Try eating several small meals or snacks throughout the day. Small meals are easier to handle than large meals and will help you get the nutrients your body needs.
 - For more information, please ask for a copy of “Keeping Nausea Under Control.” For additional help in coping with nausea and/or appetite and weight loss, ask your doctor to make an appointment with a dietitian for you.
- Low platelet count
 - You may bruise and bleed more easily. Avoid cutting or injuring yourself. If you shave, always use an electric shaver. **Do not** take any aspirin or other pain relievers such as

ibuprofen (Advil[®] or Motrin[®]) or Naproxen (Naprosyn[®] or Aleve[®]) unless your doctor says it is okay.

- **Do not** use suppositories or enemas if your platelet count is low because they may cause bleeding.
- Tell your doctor or nurse **immediately** if you notice tiny red spots under your skin, bruising or unusual bleeding (e.g., blood in urine or stools, black tarry stools).
- Go to the nearest emergency room if you coughed up blood or if you have bleeding that will not stop.
- Low white blood cell count
 - A low white blood cell count usually develops 7-10 days after therapy begins.
 - Your chance of getting an infection may increase. Avoid contact with persons who have colds, flu, shingles, chicken pox or any type of infection. Bathe daily and practice good mouth care. For more information, please ask for a copy of “Mouth Care for Chemotherapy Patients.”
 - **Do not** use suppositories or enemas if your white blood cell count is low because they may cause an infection.
 - Tell your doctor or nurse **immediately** if you have fever of 101°F (38.3°C) or higher, chills, sore throat and/or cough, lower back or side pain, or painful or difficult urination. If it is after regular clinic hours, go to the nearest emergency room.
- Low red blood cell count
 - You may tire easily or become short of breath. Take naps and rest often. Go to the nearest emergency room **immediately** if you have chest pain, shortness of breath or increased shortness of breath.
- ! • Pain and skin damage at the site of injection
 - Check the site where you received your intravenous (IV) medications **daily**. Continue doing this until your next doctor visit.
 - Call your doctor as soon as possible if you have:
 - Change in skin color, redness or darkened skin at the original IV site or close to the site
 - Swelling, burning or pain around the IV site
 - Difficulty in moving your hand, wrist, elbow or shoulder
 - Change in function of the arm where the IV was located
 - Dampness on the central venous catheter (CVC) or port dressing, if you have a CVC or port-a-cath



Tell your doctor or nurse immediately if you have:

- Signs of infection (fever of 101°F (38.3°C) or higher, chills, sore throat and/or cough, lower back or side pain, or painful or difficult urination)
- Swelling of the face, mouth or tongue

These are the most common side effects; other side effects may occur and should be reported to your doctor. Do not change your dose or schedule unless you are told to do so by your doctor. Please report any problems to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.