

Bortezomib

Names	The generic name is bortezomib (bor tez' oh mib). Velcade® is a brand name. There may be other names for this medication.
How is it Administered?	Your medicine will be given by injection into a vein (intravenous or IV), or into your skin (subcutaneous or SQ).
Why Am I Taking Bortezomib?	This drug is used to treat multiple myeloma (cancer of the blood plasma) and mantle cell lymphoma.
How Does it Work?	<p>Bortezomib is not a traditional chemotherapy medication; it is a targeted therapy. Specifically, it is a proteasome inhibitor.</p> <p>Traditional chemotherapy drugs identify cancer cells by their rapid rate of reproduction, and then attack those cells. Bortezomib is designed to work differently. Instead of attacking rapidly reproducing cells, it targets certain enzymes within the cancer cells, interferes with their reproduction, and leads to the cells' death.</p>
What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin?	<p>Tell your doctor if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• are allergic to bortezomib, boron, or mannitol• are pregnant or breast feeding• have or have had heart disease,• have kidney or liver disease, a herpes infection (cold sores, shingles), diabetes, fainting, high cholesterol, low or high blood pressure, peripheral neuropathy, or loss of feeling or reflex in a body part• smoke, or drink large amounts of alcohol <p>This drug may interact with other medications or cause harmful side effects. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about <u>all</u> prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal, or diet supplements that you are taking.</p>

What Are Some Possible Side Effects?

- Low blood counts (decreased red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets), which increases your risk of anemia, infections, and bleeding.
- Tingling, burning, numbness, or pain in your hands and feet (peripheral neuropathy). You may have trouble walking or buttoning clothes, opening jars, and doing other routine activities.
- Fatigue, weakness
- Nausea, vomiting, and/or loss of appetite
- Constipation and/or diarrhea
- Headache, fever
- Back, bone, joint, or muscle pain and/or muscle cramps
- Trouble sleeping and/or feeling anxious
- Skin rash

How Can I Manage These Side Effects?

- Stay away from people with colds, flu, or other infections, wash your hands often, and talk to your doctor before you have any vaccinations (immunizations), such as a flu shot.
- Be careful when handling sharp objects, stay away from rough sports, and other situations where you could be bruised, cut, or injured. Use an electric razor.
- Be careful when walking, cooking, or handling sharp/hot objects.
- Do not drive or operate machinery if you feel dizzy, light-headed, or faint, or if you have blurred vision.
- If you feel dizzy when you first stand up after lying down, sit upright for a few minutes before standing.
- Take your temperature as instructed by your doctor, and whenever you feel warm.
- Ask your doctor about medicine to help prevent or lessen nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, pain, and anxiety/sleep problems.
- If you vomit or have diarrhea, you are at risk for dehydration. Be sure to drink 2-3 quarts of fluids a day, especially water, unless your doctor has told you to watch your fluid intake.
- Acetaminophen (Tylenol®) or other over-the-counter pain medication may help relieve discomfort but be sure to check with your doctor about which products are safe for you to use while on this medication.
- Do not put anything on your rash unless your doctor or nurse says you may. Keep the area around the rash clean and dry.

When Should I
Call the
Doctor?

Call your doctor immediately if you have:

- any sign of infection: **Fever of 100.4°F (38°C)** or higher, chills, cough, sore throat, pain or burning upon urination; redness or tenderness along a vein, at an IV site, or at any other wound or skin irritation
- any sign of an allergic reaction: itching or hives, swelling in your face or hands, swelling or tingling in your mouth or throat, chest tightness, trouble breathing, dizziness, or palpitations
- unusual bruising or bleeding: bleeding lasts more than 10-15 minutes or that causes dizziness; black or bloody stools; vomit that is bloody or that looks like coffee grounds; blood in your urine or phlegm /mucus, unusually heavy menstrual bleeding, spontaneous bleeding from your gums or nose, or superficial bleeding into the skin that appears as a rash of pinpoint-sized reddish-purple spots (petechiae).

Call your doctor as soon as possible if you have:

- pain, tingling, burning, numbness, or a pins-and-needles feeling in your hands or feet; difficulty walking; or clumsiness in doing routine activities
- nausea, or vomiting not relieved by prescribed medication or that prevents you from eating or drinking
- no bowel movements for 3 days or if you feel uncomfortable
- swelling (fluid retention) in your legs, feet, or ankles
- headache not helped by prescribed medicine
- extreme weakness that interferes with normal activities

What Else Do I
Need to Know
About
Bortezomib?

- You should not get pregnant or father a child; this drug may harm an unborn child. Use an effective method of birth control. Barrier methods, such as condoms, are recommended.
- Do not breastfeed while you are on bortezomib.
- This medication may make you drowsy or dizzy. Do not drive or use dangerous tools until you know how it will affect you.
- If you would like more information about bortezomib, talk to your doctor.