

Carfilzomib

Names	The generic drug name is carfilzomib (kar-FIL-zoh-mib). The brand name is Kryprolis®. There may be other names for this medication.
Why Am I Taking Carfilzomib?	Carfilzomib is used to treat multiple myeloma. There are studies to see if it can be used to treat other cancers.
How is Carfilzomib Given?	This medication is given by infusion (injection) into a vein (intravenous, IV), usually in the arm, wrist, hand, or chest. Typically, it is given for 2 days in a row for 3 weeks, followed by a break for 12-14 days.
How Does it Work?	<p>Carfilzomib is a type of <i>targeted therapy</i>, not a traditional chemotherapy. Specifically, it is a proteasome inhibitor.</p> <p>Cancer is a group of diseases in which abnormal cells divide without control. Traditional chemo medications identify cancer cells by their rapid rate of reproduction – and then attack those cells. Unfortunately, normal cells that reproduce rapidly are often affected as well, causing unpleasant side effects. Carfilzomib works differently. Instead of attacking all rapidly reproducing cells, it blocks the action of an abnormal protein that triggers cancer cells to reproduce. If the cancer cells can't reproduce, they die.</p>
What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin Carfilzomib?	<p>Tell your doctor if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• are allergic to carfilzomib or if you have any other allergies• have an infection or have diabetes• have or have ever had a heart attack or other heart problems, high blood pressure, or a herpes infection (cold sores, shingles, genital sores)• have liver or kidney disease, or if you are on dialysis• are taking hormones (birth control pills, implants or injections), prednisone, aspirin, products containing aspirin, or supplements• are pregnant or breastfeeding <p>This drug may interact with other medications or cause harmful side effects. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about <u>all</u> the prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal, or diet supplements that you take.</p>

What Are Some Possible Side Effects?

- Low blood counts: Low levels of white blood cells, red blood cells, and platelets can increase your risk for infection, fatigue, and bleeding
- Fatigue
- Nausea (more common), vomiting (less common)
- Diarrhea (more common), constipation (less common)
- Fever
- Shortness of breath
- **Less common side effects:** headache, cough, back pain, muscle aches/spasms, numbness/tingling in hands and feet (peripheral neuropathy), trouble sleeping, changes in electrolytes (low potassium, magnesium, phosphorus, sodium; high calcium) and kidney function tests(creatinine) and high blood sugar levels, and birth defects

How Can I Manage These Side Effects?

- Low white blood count: To help avoid infections, stay away from people with colds or other infections. Wash your hands often. Talk to your doctor before you have any vaccinations, such as a flu shot.
- Low red blood cells/fatigue: Take rests during the day, limit your activities, and do an activity at a time of day when you feel a bit more energetic. Learn to ask for an accept help with household and daily chores.
- Low platelets: Be careful when handling sharp objects. Stay away from rough sports or other situations where you could be bruised, cut or injured. Use an electric razor.
- Ask your doctor about medication to help prevent or lessen nausea, or diarrhea
- Check with your doctor or nurse before you use an over-the-counter medications or products for any aide effect.
- Drink 2-3 quarts per day, especially water, unless your doctor has told you otherwise. If you are having a lot of vomiting or diarrhea, you're at risk for dehydration – a condition in which your cells do not have enough fluid – which can be serious if not treated. =
- Mouth care is very important. Rinse your mouth with a mixture of ½ teaspoon of baking soda in 8 ounces of water after every meal and at bedtime. Brush your teeth and gums often with a soft toothbrush. (Soften it further by running it under warm water before brushing).
- Avoid smoking, alcohol, and mouthwashes that contain alcohol.

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 infusion reaction (up to 24 hrs after treatment): fever, chills, joint or muscle pain, redness or warmth in your face, weakness, vomiting, shortness of breath, or tightness in your chest, or fainting.
- any sign of an allergic reaction: itching, hives, difficulty swallowing or breathing, chest tightness, shortness of breath, rapid heartbeat, or swelling in your face, mouth, throat, or hands
- unusual bruising/bleeding: bleeding for 15 minutes or causing dizziness; black/bloody stools or vomit; vomit that looks like coffee grounds
- shortness of breath, new cough, upper respiratory infection
- swelling (edema) or numbness/burning/tingling (neuropathy) in your feet, hands, legs, or arms

Call your doctor as soon as possible if you have:

- nausea or vomiting not relieved by prescribed medication or that prevents you from eating or drinking
- diarrhea 5-6 times OR vomiting 4-5 times in 1 day
- extreme fatigue that keeps you from caring for yourself

What Else Should I Know About Carfilzomib?

- Carfilzomib may cause cardiotoxicity (affect your heart function) and pulmonary toxicity (affect your lung function). This may affect your blood pressure, the pumping of your heart, and your breathing. It can also cause fluid to build up in the heart or lungs.
- Please keep all your lab and doctor appointments so your blood can be monitored.
- This medication may be harmful to a fetus. Do not get pregnant or father a child while taking carfilzomib and for 6 months after treatment ends. Both men and women should use an effective method of birth control. Barrier methods (condoms, diaphragms) are recommended. May affect your ability to have children in the future. If you may want children, talk to your doctor or nurse about your options **before you begin therapy**.
- Your doctor may change your dose during your treatment, depending on how well the medication is working and side effects.
- If you are having surgery, including dental surgery, be sure to tell the doctor or dentist that you are receiving carfilzomib.
- If you would like more information, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.