

Dacarbazine

Names	The generic drug name is dacarbazine (da-KAR-ba-zeen). The brand name is DTIC-Dome®. There may be other names for this medication.
How is it Administered?	Your medicine will be given by infusion into a vein (intravenous or IV), usually in your arm, wrist, hand, or chest.
Why am I Receiving Dacarbazine?	This drug is used to treat melanoma, Hodgkin’s disease, soft tissue sarcomas, neuroblastoma, rhabdomyosarcoma, fibrosarcoma, medullary carcinoma of the thyroid cancer, and islet cell carcinoma (pancreatic cancer).
How Does it Work?	<p>Cancer is a group of diseases in which abnormal cells divide (reproduce) without control. Both normal and cancer cells go through cycles that include a resting phase, active growing phases, and division (when the cells reproduce/multiply). Your chemotherapy schedule is based upon the type of cancer you have, the rate at which the cancer cells divide, and the times when each drug is the most likely to be effective. This is why chemotherapy is typically given in cycles.</p> <p>Dacarbazine is in a class of drugs known as alkylating agents. Alkylating agents are most active in the resting phase of the cell cycle. You may hear it called a cell-cycle non-specific drug.</p>
What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin Dacarbazine?	<p>Tell your doctor if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have or have ever had liver disease• are pregnant or breastfeeding <p>This drug may interact with other medications. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about <u>all</u> prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal, or diet supplements you take.</p>
What Are Some Possible Side Effects?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low blood counts: Decreased number of white blood cells, red blood cells, or platelets increase your risk of fatigue, anemia/fatigue, or bleeding• Nausea, vomiting, and/or loss of appetite• Less common: Flu-like symptoms, peripheral neuropathy (numbness, tingling, or decreased sensation in fingers or toes), and sensitivity to sunlight (photosensitivity)

How Can I Manage These Side Effects?

- To help avoid infections, stay away from crowds or people with colds or other infections. Wash your hands often. Talk to your doctor before you have any vaccinations, such as a flu shot.
- Fatigue: Stay active as possible, take rests during the day, limit activities, and do an activity at a time of day when you feel a bit more energetic.
- Be careful when handling sharp objects. Avoid rough sports or other situations that could cause bruising or injury. Use an electric razor.
- Nausea: To help prevent nausea, avoid fried, spicy, and fatty foods on the day you get chemo and 2-3 days afterwards. Eat small, frequent meals. If nauseous, try bland foods like ginger ale, dry crackers, and toast.
- Check with your doctor before taking any medication or product that was not prescribed for you for flu-like symptoms or any side effect.
- Tell your doctor right away if you have numbness/tingling in fingers or toes.
- Avoid sun exposure. Wear sunblock with SPF 30 or higher and protective clothing and hats. Avoid tanning beds.

When Should I Call the Doctor?

Call your doctor immediately if you have:

- signs of infection such as fever of **100.4°F (38°C)** or higher; chills; sore throat; redness, pain, warmth, or swelling at the IV site
- signs of an allergic reaction: itching, hives. Call 911 or go to nearest ER if you have swelling in your face, mouth, or throat or you have trouble breathing
- unusual bruising/bleeding: bleeding lasting 15 minutes or that causes dizziness; black or bloody stools; vomit that looks like coffee grounds
- signs of liver damage: nausea, extreme tiredness, unusual bleeding, pain in the upper right part of the stomach, or yellowing of the skin or eyes

Call your doctor as soon as possible if you have nausea that is not relieved by medication or that prevents you from eating/drinking, or if you have persistent loss of appetite or you lose 5 pounds in 1 week

What Else Do I Need to Know About Dacarbazine?

- Talk to your doctor before taking any aspirin or products containing Do not use aspirin unless you have talked to your doctor.
- Do not get pregnant or father a child while on dacarbazine. Both men and women should use effective birth control Barrier methods (condoms) are recommended. This drug may be harmful to the fetus. Do not breastfeed.
- Dacarbazine may cause serious liver damage, particularly if you take it with another chemotherapy drug. Your doctor will monitor your liver function. Keep all your lab and doctor appointments. Call your doctor immediately if you have symptoms listed in When Should I Call the Doctor?
- If you would like more information, talk to your doctor or pharmacist