



For the Patient: Anagrelide
Other names: AGRYLIN®

BC Cancer Agency

- **Anagrelide** (an-AG-re-lide) is a drug that is used to treat certain types of blood cancers. It is a capsule that you take by mouth. The capsule contains lactose.
- A **blood test** will be taken periodically during your treatment with anagrelide. The dose of anagrelide may be changed based on your platelet count.
- It is important to **take** anagrelide exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the directions. Anagrelide may be taken with food or on an empty stomach with a glass of water or juice.
- If you **miss a dose** of anagrelide:
 - **For 4 times a day dosing:** Take it as soon as you can if it is within 3 hours of the missed dose. If it is over 3 hours since your missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing time.
 - **For 2 times a day dosing:** Take it as soon as you can if it is within 6 hours of the missed dose. If it is over 6 hours since your missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times.
- **Store** anagrelide capsules out of the reach of children, at room temperature, away from heat, light and moisture.
- Other drugs such as sucralfate (SULCRATE®) **may interact** with anagrelide. Tell your doctor if you are taking any other drugs as you may need extra blood test or your dose may need to be changed. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start taking any new drugs.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of anagrelide.
- Anagrelide may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to **use birth control** while being treated with anagrelide. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breast feed during treatment.
- **Tell** your doctors or dentists that you are being treated with anagrelide before you receive any treatment from them.

Side effects are listed in the following table in the order in which they may occur. Tips to help manage the side effects are included.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p>Nausea and vomiting may occur while you are taking anagrelide.</p>	<p>You may be given an antinausea drug to take at home. It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred, so follow directions closely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink plenty of liquids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts. • Try the ideas in <i>Food Choices to Control Nausea</i>.
<p>Diarrhea may occur.</p>	<p>To help diarrhea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink plenty of liquids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts. • Eat low fibre foods as outlined in <i>Coping with Diarrhea</i>. • Note: If lactose in milk usually gives you diarrhea, the lactose in the capsule may be causing your diarrhea. Take LACTAID® just before your anagrelide dose.
<p>Swelling of hands, feet or lower legs may occur if your body retains extra fluids.</p>	<p>If swelling is a problem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevate your feet when sitting. • Avoid tight clothing.
<p>You may feel drowsy and/or dizzy when you first start taking anagrelide. This should lessen as your body adjusts to the drug.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you are feeling drowsy, dizzy or less alert than usual. • Avoid alcohol as it may make you more drowsy or dizzy.
<p>Palpitations (forceful heartbeat) may occur while you are taking anagrelide.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If palpitations are bothersome, discuss the problem with your doctor.
<p>Headaches may occur. These are usually mild, but may be more severe.</p>	<p>If headaches occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You should discuss this with your doctor. • You may take acetaminophen (TYLENOL®, PANADOL®) to decrease or stop the headache.
<p>Hair loss is rare with anagrelide. Your hair will grow back once you stop treatment with anagrelide. Colour and texture may change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a gentle shampoo and soft brush. • Care should be taken with use of hair spray, bleaches, dyes and perms.
<p>Your skin may sunburn easily.</p>	<p>To help prevent sunburn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid direct sunlight. • Wear a hat, long sleeves and long pants or skirt outside on sunny days. • Apply a sun block lotion with a SPF (sun protection factor) of at least 15.

STOP TAKING ANAGRELIDE AND SEE YOUR DOCTOR OR GET EMERGENCY HELP IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE:

- Signs of a **heart problem** such as anxiety, cold sweating, fast or uneven heartbeat, severe pain or pressure in the chest and/or jaw, neck, back or arms, and shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
- Signs of **bleeding problems** such as black, tarry stools; blood in urine; pinpoint red spots on skin.
- Signs of an **allergic reaction** soon after starting treatment including dizziness, fast heart beat, face swelling or breathing problems.
- Sudden severe headache or weakness.

SEE YOUR DOCTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (DURING OFFICE HOURS) IF YOU HAVE:

- Signs of **anemia** such as unusual tiredness or weakness.
- Signs of **liver problems** such as yellow eyes or skin, white or clay-coloured stools.
- Signs of **kidney problems** such as lower back or side pain, swelling of feet or lower legs, numbness or tingling in feet or hands, painful or difficult urination, blood in urine.
- Abdominal or stomach pain.
- Dizziness that continues or is bothersome.
- Blurred or double vision.
- Easy bleeding or bruising

CHECK WITH YOUR DOCTOR IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONTINUE OR BOTHER YOU:

- Uncontrolled nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite or heartburn.
- General feeling of discomfort or illness, fever or chills.
- Headache.
- Easy bruising or bleeding.
- Extreme tiredness, difficulty sleeping, depression, confusion, nervousness.
- Redness, swelling, pain or sores on your lips, tongue, mouth or throat.
- Skin rash or itching.
- Muscle pain, joint pain, leg cramps, back pain.
- Unusual sensitivity to light.
- Ringing in your ears.
- Stuffy or runny nose.

REPORT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS TO YOUR DOCTOR
