



For the Patient: Aprepitant capsules

Other names: EMEND®

BC Cancer Agency

- **Aprepitant** (ap re' pi tant) is a drug that is used with other medications to prevent nausea and vomiting caused by cancer chemotherapy. It is a capsule that you take by mouth.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to aprepitant before taking this medication.
- It is important to **take** aprepitant exactly as directed by your doctor. Aprepitant is usually given **thirty to ninety minutes** prior to chemotherapy treatment on Day 1, and in the morning on Days 2 and 3. You may be given capsules of more than one strength. Make sure you understand the directions.
- You may **take** aprepitant with food or on an empty stomach.
- Other drugs such as pimozone (ORAP®), warfarin (COUMADIN®) and hormonal contraceptives may **interact** with aprepitant. Tell your doctor if you are taking these or any other drugs as you may need extra blood tests or your dose may need to be changed. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start or stop taking any other drugs.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of aprepitant.
- Aprepitant may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use an appropriate method of **birth control** while being treated with aprepitant and for at least one month after your last dose. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breast feed during treatment.
- **Store** aprepitant capsules out of the reach of children, at room temperature, away from heat, light, and moisture.
- **Tell** doctors, dentists, and other health professionals that you are being treated with aprepitant 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
Constipation or diarrhea may occur.	To help constipation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise if you can. • Drink plenty of fluids. • Try ideas in <i>Suggestions for Dealing with Constipation</i>.* If diarrhea is a problem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink plenty of fluids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts. • Avoid high fibre foods as outlined in <i>Food Ideas to Help with Diarrhea During Chemotherapy</i>.*
Headache may sometimes occur.	Take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours if needed, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day.

***Please ask your chemotherapy nurse or pharmacist for a copy.**

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

- Signs of an **allergic reaction** (rare) soon after a treatment including dizziness, fast heart beat, face swelling, or breathing problems.
- Signs of **heart problems** such as fast, slow, or uneven heartbeat.

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

- 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.
- **Skin rash** or **itching**.

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

- Uncontrolled nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or constipation.
- Headache not controlled with acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®).
- Weakness, tiredness or dizziness.
- Stomach pain, heartburn, hiccoughs, belching, or loss of appetite.

REPORT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS TO YOUR DOCTOR