



BC Cancer Agency

For the Patient: GUMITO

Other Names: Treatment of Adrenal Cortical Cancer using Mitotane (LYSODREN®)

EN = ENdocrine (tumour group)
MITO = MITOtane

ABOUT THIS MEDICATION

What is this drug used for?

- **Mitotane** (MITE-oh-tane) a drug that is used to treat cancer of the adrenal cortex. The adrenal cortex is the outer part of a small gland (adrenal gland) that produces steroids.

How do these drugs work?

- **Mitotane** decreases the amounts of steroids produced by the adrenal cortex.

INTENDED BENEFITS

- This drug is being given to destroy and/or limit the growth of cancer cells in your body. This treatment may improve your current symptoms, and delay or prevent the onset of new symptoms.

TREATMENT SUMMARY

How are these drugs given?

- This medication is taken four times a day every day.
- The starting dose is one 500 mg tablet four times a day for one or two weeks and then the dose is to be increased by two 500 mg tablets every 1 or 2 weeks until you experience nausea or vomiting. The dose that you will remain on is the last dose that you took without side effects.
- Mitotane decreases the production of hormones that are produced by the adrenal gland that are necessary for good health. Most patients will require **cortisone** tablets twice daily and **fludrocortisone** tablets once daily. If the tumour produces too much cortisone –hormones do not need to be replaced until mitotane reduces the level of the cortisol to normal or below.
- Mitotane, cortisone and Fludrocortisone are tablets which are taken by mouth.

What will happen when I get my drugs?

- A blood test is done every 4 or 6 weeks during the time that the dose is being regulated. After that blood tests are done at 1 to 3 monthly intervals. These help to monitor for side effects of the treatment and can be helpful in monitoring tumour response for patients who had tumours that produce steroids.
- The doctor will review the results of the blood test and meet with you each cycle.

SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

The doctor will review the risks of treatment and possible side effects with you before starting treatment. The nurse will review these with you on the day of your treatment. If you haven't already received a copy, please ask for "*Information for the Patient: mitotane*". It is also located on our website at:

BCCA Pharmacists are also available to answer your drug-related questions.

Medication Interactions

Some drugs may **interact** with mitotane and you may need extra blood tests or your doses may need to be changed. See "*Information for the Patient: mitotane*".