**DRUG NAME:** Mitotane

**SYNONYM(S):** o,p'-DDD

**COMMON TRADE NAME(S):** LYSODREN®

**CLASSIFICATION:** miscellaneous

Special pediatric considerations are noted when applicable, otherwise adult provisions apply.

**MECHANISM OF ACTION:**

Mitotane is described as an adrenal cytotoxic agent, although its exact mechanism of action is unknown. Mitotane directly suppresses the adrenal cortex, both with and without cellular destruction. Production of corticosteroids is inhibited and peripheral steroid metabolism is modified, leading to increased excretion of 17-hydroxy corticosteroids and 17-ketosteroids. Mitotane is structurally related to the insecticide chlorophenothane (DDT). Mitotane is an immunosuppressive agent.

**PHARMACOKINETICS:**

| Oral Absorption  | 35-40%<sup>1,2,4</sup> |
| Distribution     | distribution between plasma and tissues complete within 12 hours<sup>2,4</sup>; 20-30% stored in tissues, primarily in fat<sup>1,4</sup>; detected in most tissues |
|                  | cross blood brain barrier?<sup>2</sup> no; small amounts of metabolite detected in CSF |
|                  | volume of distribution no information found |
|                  | plasma protein binding no information found |
| Metabolism       | converted partly to water-soluble metabolites o,p'-DDE and o,p'-DDA by liver<sup>2,3,5</sup> |
|                  | active metabolite(s) activity not characterized<sup>1</sup> |
|                  | inactive metabolite(s) activity not characterized<sup>1</sup> |
| Excretion        | blood levels persist several weeks or months due to slow release from tissues<sup>1,2</sup>; biliary excretion significant for metabolites |
|                  | urine<sup>1</sup> 10-19% as water-soluble metabolites |
|                  | feces<sup>1,3,6</sup> 40-60% unchanged in stool, less if administered in milk or oil emulsion; 1-17% in bile, as metabolites; no unchanged drug in bile. |
|                  | terminal half life<sup>2,7</sup> 18-159 days |
|                  | clearance no information found |

Adapted from standard reference<sup>1</sup> unless specified otherwise.

**USES:**

*Adrenocortical carcinoma*

*Health Canada approved indication*

**SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS:**

**Caution:**

Adrenal insufficiency develops in most patients. Adrenal steroid replacement should begin at the start of treatment, as opposed to waiting for insufficiency to develop. Steroid replacement should be continued for at
least two months after treatment is discontinued, and in some cases, if adrenal insufficiency persists, steroid replacement may be permanently required. Higher than usual replacement doses may be necessary as mitotane affects the extra-adrenal metabolism of steroids. Temporary withdrawal of mitotane is recommended following infection, shock, or severe trauma, accompanied by appropriate administration of exogenous glucocorticoids and mineralocorticoids. It is advised that patients carry a wallet card, or wear a medical alert bracelet/tag, in case of emergency. Caregivers and emergency contacts should be made aware of mitotane use.

- **Liver disease** may impair metabolism, causing accumulation of drug, although routine dosage reduction is not considered necessary.
- All possible tumour tissue from large metastatic masses should be surgically removed prior to treatment to minimize tumour infarction and hemorrhage, due to a rapid cytotoxic effect of therapy.
- **Brain damage and impairment of function** has been associated with long-term continuous administration of high doses. Behavioural and neurological assessments are recommended at regular intervals for treatment exceeding two years.

**Carcinogenicity:** no information found

**Mutagenicity:** no information found

**Fertility:** no information found

**Pregnancy:** FDA Pregnancy Category C. There are no controlled studies in women or animals. Mitotane should be used in pregnant women only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

**Breastfeeding** is not recommended due to the potential secretion into breast milk.

**SIDE EFFECTS:**

The table includes adverse events that presented during drug treatment but may not necessarily have a causal relationship with the drug. Because clinical trials are conducted under very specific conditions, the adverse event rates observed may not reflect the rates observed in clinical practice. Adverse events are generally included if they were reported in more than 1% of patients in the product monograph or pivotal trials, and/or determined to be clinically important.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORGAN SITE</th>
<th>SIDE EFFECT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>allergy/immunology</td>
<td>facial or periorbital swelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>auditory/hearing</td>
<td>decreased hearing (&lt;1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blood/bone marrow/febrile neutropenia</td>
<td>leukopenia (&lt;13%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>thrombocytopenia (&lt;1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cardiovascular (general)</td>
<td>flushing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>hypertension (&lt;1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>orthostatic hypotension (&lt;1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>constitutional symptoms</td>
<td>asthenia/fatigue (&lt;1%), severe 2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>hyperpyrexia (&lt;1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dermatology/skin</td>
<td>maculopapular rash (12-15%) (&gt;10%); see paragraph following Side Effects table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>urticaria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>endocrine</td>
<td>adrenal insufficiency (&gt;10%); see statement in Caution section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>gynecomastia (&lt;9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>impotence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORGAN SITE</td>
<td>SIDE EFFECT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| gastrointestinal | emetogenic potential: low-moderate<sup>15</sup>  
|  | anorexia (24-57%)<sup>4,7,13</sup>; see paragraph following Side Effects table  
|  | diarrhea (13-31%)<sup>4,7,13</sup>; see paragraph following Side Effects table  
|  | nausea (39-55%)<sup>4,7,13</sup>; diminishes with continued use<sup>8</sup>; see paragraph following Side Effects table  
|  | vomiting (37-55%)<sup>4,7,13</sup>; diminishes with continued use<sup>8</sup>; see paragraph following Side Effects table  
| metabolic/laboratory | albuminuria (≤1%)<sup>7</sup>  
|  | alkaline phosphatase elevation<sup>2,16</sup> (up to 100%)  
|  | AST/ALT elevation<sup>2,13,16</sup> (49%)<sup>13</sup>  
|  | bilirubin elevation<sup>2</sup> (≤1%)  
|  | estrogens, increase in urinary excretion<sup>2</sup>  
|  | gamma-glutamyltransferase elevation<sup>13,16</sup> (85-100%, severe 15%)  
|  | hypercholesterolemia, LDL and HDL<sup>2,14,16</sup> (1-10%); triglyceride levels not significantly affected<sup>16</sup>  
|  | hyperprolactinemia, slight<sup>16</sup>  
|  | hypouricemia<sup>2</sup> (1-10%); within 1 day, maximal in 5-10 days  
|  | protein bound iodine reduction<sup>7</sup>  
|  | serum cortisol reduction<sup>16</sup>  
|  | serum lipoprotein elevation<sup>2</sup>  
|  | serum thyroxin reduction; TSH and radioactive iodine uptake normal<sup>14,16</sup>  
|  | testosterone (free), reduced in males<sup>16</sup>  
| musculoskeletal | muscle tremor (3%)<sup>4,7</sup>  
|  | weakness (12%)<sup>4,7</sup>  
| neurology | ataxia<sup>13</sup> (15%, severe 9%); see paragraph following Side Effects table  
|  | confusion (3-23%, severe 4%)<sup>1,4,13</sup>; see paragraph following Side Effects table  
|  | CNS depression (25-32%)<sup>1,4,7</sup>; see paragraph following Side Effects table  
|  | dizziness/vertigo (15-28%, severe 9%)<sup>1,4,13</sup>; see paragraph following Side Effects table  
|  | headache (5%)<sup>1,4</sup>; see paragraph following Side Effects table  
|  | lethargy/somnolence (25%)<sup>1</sup>; initially severe<sup>2</sup>; see paragraph following Side Effects table  
| ocular/visual | blurred vision (≤2%)<sup>7,13</sup>  
|  | diplopia (≤1%)<sup>7</sup>  
|  | lens opacity (≤1%)<sup>7</sup>  
|  | optic neuritis<sup>2</sup> (≤1%)  
|  | toxic retinopathy, with papilledema and retinal hemorrhage<sup>2</sup> (≤1%)<sup>7</sup>  
| pain | generalized aches  

Clinically important side effects are in **bold, italics**
myalgia (≤1%)\(^7\)
pulmonary shortness of breath\(^2\)
wheezing\(^2\)
renal/genitourinary hematuria (≤1%)\(^7\)
hemorrhagic cystitis (≤1%)\(^7\)

Adapted from standard reference\(^1\) unless specified otherwise.

**Gastrointestinal** side effects, consisting of anorexia, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes diarrhea, occur in about 80% of patients\(^1,4,14\) and are more frequently observed in the first 3-6 months.\(^16\) Symptoms tend to recur with any dose increases.\(^16\) Severe toxicity may require a temporary (4-5 days) cessation of treatment, and it is recommended to restart with two thirds of the previous daily dose if vomiting is caused by the mitotane and/or fatty vehicle.\(^12\)

Gastrointestinal symptoms may also be the result of inadequate corticoid replacement, leading to an Addisonian crisis (especially during stressful periods).\(^12\)

**Central nervous system** side effects are reported in 40-50%\(^1,4,14\) of patients, consisting primarily of CNS depression, manifested by lethargy and somnolence in 25-32%,\(^1,7\) and dizziness or vertigo in 15-28% of patients.\(^1,13\)

Confusion, fatigue, headache, irritability, mental depression, tremors, or weakness may also occur. Ataxia, encephalopathy, hallucinations, memory impairment, myelopathy, neuropathy, psychosis, and speech impairment are more rare.\(^2\) CNS side effects are more commonly reported in patients with diminished performance status at treatment initiation.\(^8\) Symptoms worsen with increased serum levels.\(^14\) Prolonged administration of high doses has been linked to brain damage and functional impairment.\(^1,2\) Ambulatory patients should be cautioned about driving and other activities which require mental and physical alertness.\(^1\)

**Dermatologic** toxicity, usually manifesting as a maculopapular rash, is reported in 15% of patients. Skin changes are not dose related and usually subside with ongoing treatment.\(^1,4,7\) Urticaria, erythema multiforme, hyperpigmentation, chloasma, perinasal scaling, facial or periorbital swelling and alopecia are also rarely reported.\(^2,10\)

**INTERACTIONS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGENT</th>
<th>EFFECT</th>
<th>MECHANISM</th>
<th>MANAGEMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>adrenal steroid tests(^2,17)</td>
<td>reduced urinary excretion of 17-hydroxy corticosteroids and aldosterone; cortisol secretion rate, serum cortisol, and serum aldosterone levels possibly unchanged</td>
<td>increased extra-adrenal metabolism of cortisol</td>
<td>monitor peak diurnal plasma cortisol, urinary free cortisol excretion, and serum aldosterone as well as urinary 17-hydroxy corticosteroids if testing is necessary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spironolactone(^7,18)</td>
<td>decreased effect of mitotane</td>
<td>adrenolytic effects blocked by spironolactone; higher diuretic doses appear to present higher risk</td>
<td>monitor for increased mitotane toxicity if spironolactone dose is decreased or if stopped; avoid concurrent therapy if possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGENT</td>
<td>EFFECT</td>
<td>MECHANISM</td>
<td>MANAGEMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>thyroid function tests^{2,14,16}</td>
<td>decreased serum protein-bound iodine and total serum thyroxine; TSH and free thyroxine concentrations unchanged</td>
<td>increased thyroxine-binding globulin; competitive binding to thyroxine-binding globulin</td>
<td>use alternate diagnostic test: resin triiodothyronine uptake tests unaffected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>warfarin^{16}</td>
<td>decreased hypoprothrombinemic effect of warfarin</td>
<td>unknown; possibly hepatic microsomal enzyme induction</td>
<td>monitor prothrombin times and adjust warfarin as necessary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hepatic microsomal hydroxylases may be induced by mitotane, and the metabolism of other drugs may be affected. In the absence of specific information regarding isoenzymes involved, caution is suggested with concurrent therapies susceptible to the influence of enzyme induction.

**SUPPLY AND STORAGE:**

*Oral:* Bristol-Myers Squibb Canada supplies mitotane as a 500 mg tablet. Store at room temperature.¹

**DOSAGE GUIDELINES:**

Refer to protocol by which patient is being treated. Numerous dosing schedules exist and depend on disease, response, and concomitant therapy. Guidelines for dosing also include consideration of absolute neutrophil count (ANC). Dosage may be reduced, delayed or discontinued in patients with bone marrow depression due to cytotoxic/radiation therapy or with other toxicities.

**Adults:**

*Additional information:* Absorption may be increased and fecal excretion may be decreased by administration with fat-rich foods and beverages.¹²¹⁹ To minimize variations, tablets should be taken at the same times each day. Tablets may be taken with meals or on an empty stomach as long as timing in relation to meals is consistent.⁸¹²²⁰

BCCA usual dose noted in *bold, italics*

*Oral*¹⁸¹¹: Starting dose of 2-6 g/day, in divided doses 3-4 times per day; *titrate by 1 g/day once every 1-2 weeks to maximum tolerated dose* (range 2-16 g/day). Usual dose is 8-10 g PO daily, in divided doses, but maximum tolerated dose is highly variable. Maximum dose = 19 g/day.

*Dosage in myelosuppression:* modify according to protocol by which patient is being treated; if no guidelines available, refer to Appendix 6 "Dosage Modification for Myelosuppression"

*Dosage in renal failure*¹⁹: no information found; caution in mild to moderate impairment, not recommended in severe impairment

*Dosage in hepatic failure*²¹⁹: plasma levels may increase; accumulation possible; routine dose adjustment not considered necessary; not recommended in severe impairment

*Dosage in dialysis:* no information found
Children:

Oral \textsuperscript{2,12,21}: Starting dose of 0.5-1 g/day, in divided doses 3-4 times per day; titrate to individual response and tolerance. Doses of 1-10 g/day have been used.

1-2 g/m\textsuperscript{2}/day, divided 4 times per day; increase weekly by 1-2 g/m\textsuperscript{2} to a maximum dose of 4 g/m\textsuperscript{2}/day at 4 weeks.

REFERENCES:

1. Bristol-Myers Squibb Canada. LYSODREN\textsuperscript{®} product monograph. St. Laurent, Quebec; 26 October 2004.
5. Amgen Canada. VECTIBIX\textsuperscript{®} product monograph. Mississauga, Ontario; 5 March 2009.