



Provincial Health Services Authority

For the Patient: Pamidronate

Other names: AREDIA®

- **Pamidronate** (pa-mi-DROE-nate) is a drug that is used to treat some types of cancer. It is also used to treat cancer which has spread into the bones (bone metastases) and to treat the increased amount of calcium in the blood (hypercalcemia) that may occur with some kinds of cancer. It is a clear liquid that is injected into a vein.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to alendronate (FOSAMAX®), clodronate (BONEFOS®, OSTAC®), etidronate (DIDRONEL®, DIDROCAL®) or zoledronic acid (ZOMETA®) before starting pamidronate treatment.
- Other drugs may **interact** with pamidronate. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start or stop taking any other drugs.
- If you are receiving pamidronate for **increased blood calcium**, other drugs such as corticosteroids (e.g., dexamethasone, prednisone), phosphate supplements, vitamin D, calcitonin, and diuretics such as furosemide (LASIX®) may **interact** with pamidronate. 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 pamidronate.
- Pamidronate may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with pamidronate. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breast feed during treatment.
- **Tell** doctors or dentists that you are being treated with pamidronate 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
Fever may occur shortly after treatment with pamidronate. It should last no longer than 48 hours. Fever may occur together with some flu-like symptoms such as chills, tiredness, nausea and headache.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take acetaminophen (eg, TYLENOL®) every 3-4 hours. • See your doctor if fever continues for more than 48 hours.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Tiredness and lack of energy may occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you are feeling tired. • Try the ideas in <i>Fatigue/Tiredness – Patient Handout</i> or <i>Your Bank to Energy Savings: Helping People with Cancer Handle Fatigue</i>.*
Pain or tenderness may occur where the needle was placed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply cool compresses or soak in cool water for 15-20 minutes several times a day.
Problems with the jaw bone may rarely occur.	Refer to patient information handouts <i>Patient Handout - Bisphosphonates and Oral Health</i> or <i>Patient Handout - Bisphosphonates and Oral Health in Multiple Myeloma</i> .*

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

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

- Signs of **low blood calcium** such as abdominal cramps, confusion and muscle spasms.
- Signs of **anemia** such as unusual tiredness or weakness.
- **Pain in your mouth**, teeth or jaw.
- **Poor healing** of your gums or mouth after a dental procedure.

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

- Aches and pains.
- Uncontrolled nausea, vomiting constipation or diarrhea.
- Fever or headache not controlled with acetaminophen.
- Redness, swelling, pain or sores where the needle was placed.
- Eye irritation or changes in eye sight.

REPORT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS TO YOUR DOCTOR
