



## For the Patient: Streptozocin

Other names: ZANOSAR®

### BC Cancer Agency

- **Streptozocin** (strep toe zoe' sin) is a drug that is used to treat many types of cancer. It is a clear, pale yellow liquid that is injected into a vein.
- A **blood test** may be taken before each treatment. The dose and timing of your chemotherapy may be changed based on the test results and/or other side effects.
- Your doctor may tell you to **drink** extra fluids so that you will pass more urine. This may help prevent kidney problems.
- Other drugs such as phenytoin (DILANTIN®) may **interact** with streptozocin. Tell your doctor if you are taking this 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 streptozocin.
- Streptozocin may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with streptozocin. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breast feed during treatment.
- **Tell** doctors, dentists, and other health professionals that you are being treated with streptozocin 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
Streptozocin <b>burns</b> if it leaks under the skin.	Tell your nurse or doctor <b>immediately</b> if you feel burning, stinging, or any other change while the drug is being given.
<b>Pain or tenderness</b> may occur where the needle was placed.	Apply cool compresses or soak in cool water for 15-20 minutes several times a day.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p><b>Nausea and vomiting</b> may occur 1-4 hours after your treatment and may last for 24 hours.</p>	<p>You will be given a prescription for antinausea drug(s) to take before your chemotherapy treatment and/or at home. <b>It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred</b>, so follow directions closely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids.</li> <li>• Eat and drink often in small amounts.</li> <li>• Try the ideas in <i>Food Choices to Help Control Nausea</i>.*</li> </ul>
<p>Streptozocin may rarely <b>decrease blood sugar</b>.</p>	<p>If you experience muscle weakness, headache, confusion, trembling, sweating, irritability, fast heartbeat, restlessness, or slurred speech:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink something high in sugar such as pop or fruit juice or suck on a hard candy.</li> <li>• Check your blood sugar regularly if you are diabetic.</li> <li>• Call your doctor or get emergency help if symptoms continue.</li> </ul>
<p>Streptozocin may rarely <b>increase blood sugar</b>.</p>	<p>Check your blood sugar regularly if you are diabetic.</p>
<p><b>Diarrhea</b> may rarely occur.</p>	<p>If diarrhea is a problem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids.</li> <li>• Eat and drink often in small amounts.</li> <li>• Avoid high fibre foods as outlined in <i>Food Ideas to Help with Diarrhea During Chemotherapy</i>.*</li> </ul>
<p>Your <b>white blood cells</b> may decrease 7-14 days after your treatment. They usually return to normal 21 days after your last treatment. White blood cells protect your body by fighting bacteria (germs) that cause infection. When they are low, <b>you are at greater risk of having an infection</b>.</p>	<p>To help prevent infection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wash your hands often and always after using the bathroom.</li> <li>• Avoid crowds and people who are sick.</li> <li>• Call your doctor <b>immediately</b> at the first sign of an infection such as fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer), chills, cough, or burning when you pass urine.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Hair loss</b> does not occur with streptozocin.</p>	

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

