



For the Patient: Thioguanine
Other names: LANVIS®

BC Cancer Agency

- Thioguanine (thye-oh-GWON-een) is a drug that is used to treat different types of leukemia. It is a tablet that you take by mouth.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to thioguanine before taking thioguanine.
- A **blood test** may be taken before your treatment. The dose and timing of your chemotherapy may be changed based on the test results and/or other side effects.
- It is important to take thioguanine exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the directions. Take thioguanine at the **same time** each day. It is best to take thioguanine on an **empty stomach**; you may take it with food if needed.
- If you **vomit** within 1 hour of taking thioguanine, check with your doctor during office hours. You will be told whether to take the dose again or to wait until the next scheduled dose.
- If you **miss a dose** of thioguanine, take it as soon as you can if it is within 12 hours of the missed dose. If it is over 12 hours since your missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times.
- Your doctor may tell you to **drink** extra fluids so that you will pass more urine. This will help prevent kidney problems.
- Other drugs may **interact** with thioguanine. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start taking any new drugs.
- Talk to your doctor before receiving any **immunizations**.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of thioguanine.
- It is not known if thioguanine causes **sterility** in men or **menopause** in women. If you plan to have children, discuss this with your doctor before being treated with thioguanine.
- Thioguanine may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with thioguanine. Tell your doctor

right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breast feed during treatment.

- **Store** thioguanine tablets out of the reach of children, at room temperature, away from heat, light, and moisture.
- **Tell** doctors or dentists that you are being treated with thioguanine before you receive any treatment from them.

Changes in blood counts

This drug may cause temporary changes in your blood counts. Your doctor will be following these changes carefully by performing blood tests. Adjustment of your treatment may be needed in certain circumstances.

BLOOD COUNTS	MANAGEMENT
<p>Normal white blood cells protect your body by fighting bacteria (germs) that cause infection. When white blood cells are low, you are at greater risk of having an infection.</p>	<p>To help prevent infection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash your hands often and always after using the bathroom. • Avoid crowds and people who are sick. • Call your doctor <i>immediately</i> 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.
<p>Normal platelets help your blood to clot normally after an injury (e.g., cut). When the platelet count is low, you may be more likely to bruise or bleed.</p>	<p>To help prevent bleeding problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try not to bruise, cut, or burn yourself. • Clean your nose by blowing gently. Do not pick your nose. • Avoid constipation. • Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush as your gums may bleed more easily. <p>Some medications such as ASA (e.g., ASPIRIN®) or ibuprofen (e.g., ADVIL®) may increase your risk of bleeding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not stop taking any medication that has been prescribed by your doctor (e.g., ASA for your heart). • For minor pain, try acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) first, but occasional use of ibuprofen may be acceptable.

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
Nausea does not usually occur with thioguanine.	
Hair loss does not occur with thioguanine.	

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

- Signs of an **infection** such as fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer), shaking chills; cough, severe sore throat, productive cough (coughing up thick or green sputum); cloudy or foul smelling urine; painful, tender, or swollen red skin wounds or sores.
- Signs of **bleeding problems** such as black, tarry stools; blood in urine; pinpoint red spots on skin; extensive bruising.
- Signs of an **allergic reaction** (rare), including dizziness, fast heart beat, face swelling, or breathing problems.

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

- Signs of **anemia** such as unusual tiredness or weakness.
- 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.
- Signs of **gout** such as joint pain.
- Trouble in **walking**.

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

- Uncontrolled nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- Easy bruising or minor bleeding.
- Redness, swelling, pain, or sores on your lips, tongue, mouth, or throat.
- Skin rash or itching.

REPORT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS TO YOUR DOCTOR
