



## For the Patient: Thiotepa intrathecal

Other names:

### BC Cancer Agency

- **Thiotepa** (thye oh tep' a) is a drug that is used to treat many types of cancer. It is a clear liquid that is injected into your spine (intrathecal) or into a device implanted under the skin on the top of your head (Ommaya reservoir).
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to thiotepa before receiving thiotepa.
- 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.
- Other drugs may **interact** with thiotepa. 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 thiotepa.
- Thiotepa may cause **sterility** in men and **menopause** in women. If you plan to have children, discuss this with your doctor before being treated with thiotepa.
- Thiotepa may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with thiotepa. 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 thiotepa 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
<b>Pain or tenderness</b> may occur where the needle was placed.	Apply cool compresses several times a day.
<b>Nausea</b> does not usually occur with thiotepa intrathecal injection.	

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<b>Headache</b> may rarely occur. Headache should last no longer than 8 hours.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day.</li> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids the day before and the day of treatment.</li> <li>• On the day of treatment, lie down as much as possible after receiving thiotepa intrathecal injection.</li> <li>• Call your doctor <b>immediately</b> if you experience a headache that lasts longer than 8 hours after receiving thiotepa intrathecal injection.</li> </ul>
<b>Hair loss</b> does not occur with thiotepa intrathecal injection.	

**SEE YOUR DOCTOR OR GET EMERGENCY HELP IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE:**

- Signs of **meningitis** such as sudden onset of severe headache, back pain, stiff neck, muscle weakness, nausea and vomiting.
- A **headache** that lasts longer than 8 hours.
- **Unexpected mood changes** including confusion, irritability, and drowsiness.
- Difficulty with **balance or trouble** walking or talking.
- Signs of an **infection** such as fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer), shaking chills; 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) soon after a treatment 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.

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

- Uncontrolled nausea or vomiting.
- Headache not controlled with acetaminophen (TYLENOL®).
- Numbness or tingling in legs or feet.
- Easy bruising or minor bleeding.
- Skin rash or itching.

**REPORT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS TO YOUR DOCTOR**

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