

Fosaprepitant (Emend®)

About This Drug

Fosaprepitant is a medication used before chemotherapy to prevent nausea and vomiting (throwing up) during chemotherapy. It is given in the vein (IV).

Possible Side Effects

- Decrease in red blood cells (you may feel more tired)
- Decrease in the number of white blood cells. This may raise your risk of infection.
- Tiredness and weakness
- Loose bowel movements (diarrhea)
- Indigestion
- Pain in your arm or leg
- Urinary tract infection
- Effects on the nerves are called peripheral neuropathy. You may feel numbness, tingling, or pain in your hands and feet. It may be hard for you to button your clothes, open jars, or walk as usual. The effect on the nerves may get worse with more doses of the drug. These effects get better in some people after the drug is stopped but it does not get better in all people.

Note: Each of the side effects above was reported in 2% or greater of patients treated with fosaprepitant. Not all possible side effects are included above.

Warnings and Precautions

- Allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis are rare but may happen in some patients. Signs of allergic reaction to this drug may be swelling of the face, feeling like your tongue or throat are swelling, trouble breathing, rash, itching, fever, chills, feeling dizzy, and/or feeling that your heart is beating in a fast or not normal way. If this happens, do not take another dose of this drug. You should get urgent medical treatment.
- Skin and tissue irritation including redness, pain, warmth, or swelling at the IV site if the drug leaks out of the vein and into nearby tissue. This risk is slightly more increased if you are also receiving chemotherapy that can cause skin and tissue irritation.

Treating Side Effects

- To decrease the risk infection, wash your hands regularly.
- Avoid close contact with people who have a cold, the flu, or other infections
- Take your temperature as your doctor or nurse tells you, and whenever you feel like you may have a fever.
- Manage tiredness by pacing your activities for the day.
- Be sure to include periods of rest between energy-draining activities.
- Drink plenty of fluids (a minimum of eight glasses per day is recommended).
- If you throw up or have loose bowel movements, you should drink more fluids so that you do not become dehydrated (lack of water in the body from losing too much fluid).
- If you have diarrhea, eat low-fiber foods that are high in protein and calories and avoid foods that can irritate your digestive tracts or lead to cramping.
- Ask your nurse or doctor about medicine that can lessen or stop your diarrhea.
- If you have numbness and tingling in your hands and feet, be careful when cooking, walking, and handling sharp objects and hot liquids.
- Keeping your pain under control is important to your well-being. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you are experiencing pain.

Food and Drug Interactions

- There are no known interactions of fosaprepitant with food.
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist about all other prescription medicines and over-the-counter medicines and dietary supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbs and others) you are taking before starting this medicine as there are known drug interactions with fosparepitant. Also, check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new prescription or over-the-counter medicines, or dietary supplements to make sure that there are no interactions.
- There are known interactions of fosaprepitant with blood thinning medicine such as warfarin, and oral contraceptives. Ask your doctor what precautions you should take.

When to Call the Doctor

Call your doctor or nurse if you have any of these symptoms and/or any new or unusual symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher
- Chills
- Tiredness that interferes with your daily activities
- Feeling dizzy or lightheaded
- Pain or burning when you pass urine
- Difficulty urinating
- Feeling like you have to pass urine often, but not much comes out when you do
- Tender or heavy feeling in your lower abdomen
- Cloudy urine and/or urine that smells bad
- Pain on one side of your back under your ribs. This is where your kidneys are

- Loose bowel movements (diarrhea) 4 times a day or loose bowel movements with lack of strength or a feeling of being dizzy
- Numbness, tingling, or pain in your hands and feet
- Pain that does not go away, or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Signs of allergic reaction: swelling of the face, feeling like your tongue or throat are swelling, trouble breathing, rash, itching, fever, chills, feeling dizzy, and/or feeling that your heart is beating in a fast or not normal way. **If this happens, call 911 for emergency care.**
- While you are getting this drug, please tell your nurse right away if you have any pain, redness, or swelling at the site of the IV infusion
- If you think you may be pregnant

Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** It is not known if this drug may harm an unborn child, however, birth control pills (oral contraceptives) may not be effective with this medication. For this reason, women of childbearing potential should use effective non-hormonal methods of birth control (such as condoms and spermicides) during treatment and for at least 1 month after treatment. Let your doctor know right away if you think you may be pregnant.
- **Breastfeeding warning:** It is not known if this drug passes into breast milk. For this reason, women should talk to their doctor about the risks and benefits of breastfeeding during treatment with this drug because this drug may enter the breast milk and cause harm to a breastfeeding baby.
- **Fertility warning:** Fertility studies have not been done with this drug. Talk with your doctor or nurse if you plan to have children.

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