

Romidepsin (Istodax)

About This Drug

Romidepsin is used to treat cancer. It is given in the vein (IV).

Possible Side Effects

- Bone marrow suppression. This is a decrease in the number of white blood cells, red blood cells, and platelets. This may raise your risk of infection, make you tired and weak, and raise your risk of bleeding.
- Abnormal electrocardiogram (EKG/ECG)
- Nausea and vomiting (throwing up)
- Constipation (not able to move bowels)
- Changes in the way food and drinks taste
- Infection
- Tiredness
- Decreased appetite (decreased hunger)
- Itching

Note: Each of the side effects above was reported in 30% or greater of patients treated with romidepsin. Not all possible side effects are included above.

Warnings and Precautions

- Severe bone marrow suppression
- Risk of severe and life-threatening infections
- Reactivation of hepatitis B or Epstein Barr viruses can occur if you have ever been exposed to these viruses, which can cause liver failure and be life-threatening.
- Tumor lysis syndrome: This drug may act on the cancer cells very quickly. This may affect how your kidneys work.

Note: Some of the side effects above are very rare. If you have concerns and/or questions, please discuss them with your medical team.

Important Information

- This drug may be present in the saliva, tears, sweat, urine, stool, vomit, semen, and vaginal secretions. Talk to your doctor and/or your nurse about the necessary precautions to take during this time.

Treating Side Effects

- Manage tiredness by pacing your activities for the day.
- Be sure to include periods of rest between energy-draining activities.
- To decrease the risk of 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.
- To help decrease the risk of bleeding, use a soft toothbrush. Check with your nurse before using dental floss.
- Be very careful when using knives or tools.
- Use an electric shaver instead of a razor.
- Drink plenty of fluids (a minimum of eight glasses per day is recommended).
- If you throw up, you should drink more fluids so that you do not become dehydrated (lack of water in the body from losing too much fluid).
- To help with nausea and vomiting, eat small, frequent meals instead of three large meals a day. Choose foods and drinks that are at room temperature. Ask your nurse or doctor about other helpful tips and medicine that is available to help stop or lessen these symptoms.
- Taking good care of your mouth may help food taste better and improve your appetite.
- If you are not able to move your bowels, check with your doctor or nurse before you use enemas, laxatives, or suppositories.
- Ask your doctor or nurse about medicines that are available to help stop or lessen constipation.
- To help with decreased appetite, eat small, frequent meals. Eat foods high in calories and protein, such as meat, poultry, fish, dry beans, tofu, eggs, nuts, milk, yogurt, cheese, ice cream, pudding, and nutritional supplements.
- Consider using sauces and spices to increase taste. Daily exercise, with your doctor's approval, may increase your appetite.
- To help with itching, moisturize your skin several times a day.
- Avoid sun exposure and apply sunscreen routinely when outdoors.

Food and Drug Interactions

- This drug may interact with grapefruit and grapefruit juice. Talk to your doctor as this could make side effects worse.
- 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 romidepsin. 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.

- Avoid the use of St. John's Wort while taking romidepsin as this may lower the levels of the drug in your body, which can make it less effective.
- There are known interactions of romidepsin with blood thinning medicine such as warfarin. Ask your doctor what precautions you should take.
- This medicine interacts with hormonal birth control (i.e., birth control pills, skin patches, vaginal rings, injections) and affect how they work. Discuss with your doctor and/or nurse what method of birth control may be right for you during your treatment.

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
- Easy bleeding or bruising
- Feeling that your heart is beating in a fast or not normal way (palpitations)
- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking and/or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Throwing up more than 3 times a day
- No bowel movement in 3 days or when you feel uncomfortable
- Lasting loss of appetite or rapid weight loss of five pounds in a week
- Signs of possible liver problems: dark urine, pale bowel movements, pain in your abdomen, feeling very tired and weak, unusual itching, or yellowing of the eyes or skin
- Signs of tumor lysis: confusion or agitation, decreased urine, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, muscle cramping, numbness and/or tingling, seizures.
- Itching that is bothersome
- If you think you may be pregnant or may have impregnated your partner

Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** This drug can have harmful effects on the unborn baby. Women of child-bearing potential should use effective non-hormonal methods of birth control (e.g., condoms, intrauterine devices) during your cancer treatment and for 1 month after stopping treatment. Men with female partners of childbearing potential should use effective methods of birth control during your cancer treatment and for 1 month after stopping treatment. Let your doctor know right away if you think you may be pregnant or may have impregnated your partner. **Birth control pills (oral contraceptives) and other hormonal methods of birth control may not be effective with this medication.**
- **Breastfeeding warning:** Women should not breastfeed during treatment and for 1 week after stopping treatment because this drug could enter the breast milk and cause harm to a breastfeeding baby.



- **Fertility warning:** In men and women both, this drug may affect your ability to have children in the future. Talk with your doctor or nurse if you plan to have children. Ask for information on sperm or egg banking.

Revised March 2022

