Vincristine in the Treatment of Cancer

Vincristine (Oncovin®) is a medication used to treat some cancers. This medication works by interrupting cell division.

Vincristine is given into the vein by IV push or infusion.

Your child’s doctor will give you a copy of the treatment protocol and this will include information on the medication dose and when it will be given.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS (unless otherwise instructed):

- This medication can cause constipation. You will need to monitor your child’s bowel patterns closely while he is receiving this medication. Encourage your child to eat fruits, vegetables and other high fiber foods. Your child should be taking a stool softener while receiving this medication.

- Do not give your child any medication for pain before calling the Hematology/Oncology nurse on call.

- Vincristine can cause chemical burns if it comes in contact with the skin. If your child does not have a central line (PORT-A-CATH®, Hickman® catheter, or PICC), a new IV stick will be required each time the dose is given.

SIDE EFFECTS:

The following side effects are common:

- Constipation
- Pain in jaw, face, legs or back, (can be severe)
- Trouble walking or climbing stairs, muscle weakness
- Tingling and pain in the hands, finger and toes
- Blurred or double vision, drooping eyelids
- Hair loss
- Trouble with fine motor skills (writing, buttoning, etc.)
The following side effects are less common, but can occur:

- Loss of appetite
- Nausea and vomiting
- Headaches, dizziness, lightheadedness
- Convulsions
- Difficulty urinating
- Rash
- Difficulty sleeping
- Itchiness
- Rarely, seizures

Call your child’s hematology doctor or nurse if your child has:

- No bowel movement in 3 days
- Hard, difficult to pass bowel movements
- Severe pain in jaw, face or legs
- Severe tingling or numbness in hands, fingers, and toes
- Fever of 101.5° F (38.6° C) or greater
- Severe abdominal pain or swelling
- Seizures

Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.:
Call your child's Hematology/Oncology Advanced Practice Nurse at (816) 234-3265.

Monday through Friday after 5 p.m., and on weekends or holidays:
Call (816) 234-3000 and ask the operator to page the Hematology/Oncology nurse or doctor "on-call."