Thioguanine in the Treatment of Cancer

Thioguanine (6-TG®, Tabloid®) is a medication used to treat leukemia. This medication works by starving cancer cells of essential cell nutrients.

Thioguanine is given by mouth.

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

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS (unless otherwise instructed):

- Have your child wear protective clothing, a hat and sunscreen (SPF greater than 30) when in the sun.
- Give this medication between meals when your child’s stomach is empty.
- Do not give this medication with milk or milk products.

SIDE EFFECTS:

The following side effects are common:

- Low white blood cell count – increasing your child’s risk for infection.
- Low platelet count – increasing your child’s risk for bleeding.
- Low red blood cell count – increasing your child’s risk for anemia
- Rash
- Sensitivity to sunlight

The following side effects are less common, but can occur:

- Mouth sores
- Diarrhea
- Yellow color to the skin and eyes
- Liver irritation
- Unsteady gait
Call your child’s Hematology/Oncology nurse if your child has:

- Fever of 101.5° F (38.6° C) or greater
- Skin rash
- Bleeding or bruising
- Yellow discoloration of the skin or eyes
- Abdominal pain

**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."

**Call the Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 if:**

- Too much medication is taken.
- Medication is accidentally taken.