

# CARMUSTINE (BCNU, BiCNU)

**Type of Drug:** Alkylating Agent

**How is it Given?**

- Intravenous (IV) - into a vein or central line

**How Does it Work?**

- Interferes with the growth of cancer cells

**Common Side Effects:**

- Low blood counts (usually 4-6 weeks after treatment)
- Nausea/Vomiting (usually begins about 2 hours into treatment and lasts 4-6 hours)
- Facial flushing or redness during infusion
- Pain or burning at injection site

**Less Common Side Effects:**

- Lung problems (scarring and stiffening of lungs)
- Abnormal liver and kidney function tests
- Loss of appetite
- Diarrhea
- Dizziness
- Tiredness
- Skin rash or itching
- Mouth sores

**Note:**

- Since this medicine may cause lung problems, your lung function will be tested before starting this medicine and at certain times during and after treatment. These lung tests are called Pulmonary Function Tests (PFTs) and are explained in the *Tests, Tests, and More Tests* section.
- Your kidney and liver function will be monitored through blood tests.