

CYTARABINE

(Cytosar-U, ARA-C, Cytosine Arabinoside, DepoCyt)

Type of Drug: Antimetabolite

How is it Given?

- Intravenous (IV) – into a vein or central line
- Intrathecal - into the spinal fluid

How Does It Work?

- Interferes with the growth of cancer cells

Common Side Effects:

- Nausea/Vomiting, loss of appetite
- Low blood counts (1-3 weeks after treatment)
- Diarrhea
- Mouth sores (at high doses)
- Taste changes

Less Common Side Effects:

- Flu-like symptoms (fever, aches, joint pain, tiredness)
- Abnormal liver function tests
- Eye irritation (at high doses)
- Soreness and redness of palms of hands and soles of feet (sometimes called hand-foot syndrome)
- Itchy rash

Note:

- Your liver function will be monitored through blood tests.
- You may be given prescription eye drops to prevent conjunctivitis (eye irritation)