

PROCARBAZINE (Matulane)

Type of Drug: Works similar to an alkylating agent

How is it Given?

- Oral (by mouth, capsules)

How Does it Work?

- Stops cancer cells from making proteins and DNA which they need to grow and multiply

Common Side Effects:

- Low blood counts (2-4 weeks after treatment)
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Flu-like symptoms (fever, chills, weakness, headache, aching joints)

Less Common Side Effects:

- Mouth sores and taste changes
- Diarrhea
- Hair thinning/loss
- Tingling in hands and feet (nerve irritation)
- Darkening of skin
- Rash (itchy)
- Difficulty sleeping
- Emotional changes (anxiety, depression)

Note:

- Report all prescription and over-the-counter medicine(s) that you are taking. Do **NOT** take anything before checking with your oncologist or nurse. This drug can react with other drugs, especially those for colds, hay fever, and “keep awake” medicines.
- Procarbazine interacts with alcohol and certain foods which can increase side effects and cause severe nausea/vomiting, difficulty in breathing, faintness, or sleepiness.
- Check with your oncologist or nurse about avoiding the following: cheese, yogurt, sausage, salami, pepperoni, bananas, over-ripe fruit, colas, coffee, tea, meats that have been pickled, smoked, or fermented fava beans.
- Avoid alcohol and any food/medicines that contain alcohol.