

## Daratumab, Bortezomib (Velcade) and Dexamethasone (DVD)

Drug	How drug is given	Day drug is given
DARATUMUMAB (DARA)	Subcutaneous injection	Weeks 1-9 once a week
		Weeks 10-24 once every 3 weeks
		Weeks 25+ once every 4 weeks
BORTEZOMIB (VELCADE)	Subcutaneous injection	Weekly (Maximum: 32 injections)
DEXAMETHASONE	Pills	Weekly before DARA infusion

Cycles 1-8 are 21 days

Cycles 9+ are 28 days

### Things to know:

- You will need to take medication before your DARA injection.
- You will need a digital thermometer.
- You can buy one at most drug stores.



## **Possible side effects:**

- Cough and shortness of breath – CALL your Health Care Team.
- Dexamethasone (steroid) side effects may include mood swings, irritability and difficulties with sleeping.
- Daratumumab side effects may include rash, scratchy throat, cough, fever, or changes in blood pressure.
- Diarrhea or constipation.
- Numbness and tingling in fingers and toes.
- Rash.
- Muscle aches/pains.
- Changes in blood pressure (high or low).

## **Chemotherapy: What you need to know**

There will be a decrease in your blood cells. These include white cells, red cells, hemoglobin and platelets.

- You will be on an antiviral medication daily during treatment and for 6 months after treatment.
- **CALL your Health Care Team if any side effects seem unexpected or extreme.**

## **Contact Information:**

Health Care Team: **905-387-9495**

- Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_
- Nurse: \_\_\_\_\_

## If you have any of these signs of an infection call your health care team right away:



- A temperature of 38°C or 100°F or more. This is a fever. **DO NOT take Tylenol, Aspirin, ibuprofen or anti-inflammatory medication without checking with your team first.** They may cause bleeding and may hide a fever. Call if you need medication for pain.
- A cough that produces coloured phlegm or sputum.
- Red inflamed skin.
- Diarrhea that does not go away.
- Increased shortness of breath.
- Pain or burning with urination.
- Sore throat.
- Signs of shingles: pain, blisters or a skin rash. It may look like chicken pox.

## What to watch for:

- Unusual bleeding or bruising.
- Diarrhea that does not go away – CALL if more than 4 loose stools in one day.
- Constipation (no bowel movement for 2 days). Use laxatives as needed. Do not use a suppository or enema.
- Increased thirst, voiding (peeing) more often, or an increase in blood sugar.
- Numbness and tingling in hands and feet.
- Increased swelling of the feet, legs, arms and hands.
- Voiding (peeing) less.

## We encourage you to:

- Watch the [chemotherapy video](#) and read the [chemotherapy book](#).
- Eat and drink well (at least 2 litres of non-caffeinated fluids a day).
- Practice good hygiene.
- Practice good mouth care.
- Take Dexamethasone early in the day with food.  
Do not drink alcohol while on Dexamethasone.
- **DO NOT** eat/drink green tea, grapefruit, pomegranate, star fruit or Seville oranges for 24 hours before and after Bortezomib (Velcade).



**You will be on an antiviral medication during your treatment and for 6 months after treatment has ended.**

## Possible severe or long-term side effects:

- Bone thinning/weakening.
- Potential future bone marrow damage.

Link to chemotherapy video and book:

<https://www.hamiltonhealthsciences.ca/areas-of-care/cancer-care/cancer-services/chemotherapy/>