

Bendamustine

Care Team Contact Information: _____

Pharmacy Contact Information: _____

Diagnosis: _____

- This treatment is often used for chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL). It may also be used for other types of cancer.
- This treatment may also be used as lymphodepleting therapy before chimeric antigen receptor T-cell (CAR-T) therapy.

Goal of Treatment: _____

- Treatment may continue for a certain time period, until it no longer works, or until side effects are no longer controlled.

Treatment Regimen

Treatment Name	How the Treatment Works	How the Treatment is Given
Bendamustine (BEN-duh-MUS-teen): Belrapzo (bel-RAP-zoh), Bendeka (ben-DEH-kuh), Treanda (tree-AN-duh), Vivimusta (vih-vih-MOOS-tah)	Damages the DNA in cancer cells, which stops them from growing and causes them to die. When used as lymphodepleting therapy before CAR-T therapy, bendamustine clears out many of your immune cells to make room for the CAR-T cells to grow and fight your cancer.	Infusion into a vein (intravenous (IV) infusion).

Treatment Administration and Schedule

- Treatment is sometimes repeated every 3 or 4 weeks. This length of time is called a “cycle”.
- Bendamustine is often used with other treatments. Talk with your care team about your exact treatment and schedule.
- When used for lymphodepletion before CAR-T, bendamustine is given days before the CAR-T cell infusion.

Option #1: Every 3 Weeks

- Bendamustine is given on Days 1 and 2.

Treatment Name	Cycle 1								Next Cycle
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	...	Day 21	Day 1
Bendamustine	✓	✓							✓

Option #2: Every 4 Weeks

- Bendamustine is given on Days 1 and 2.

Treatment Name	Cycle 1								Next Cycle
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	...	Day 28	Day 1
Bendamustine	✓	✓							✓

Option #3: Lymphodepletion before CAR-T for Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma (DLBCL)

- Bendamustine is given for 2 days, followed by the CAR-T infusion 2 to 11 days later. Work with your care team to fill out the treatment schedule below.

Treatment Name	Days													
	-13	-12	-11	-10	-9	-8	-7	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0
Bendamustine														

Option #4: Lymphodepletion before CAR-T for Follicular Lymphoma (FL)

- Bendamustine is given for 2 days, followed by the CAR-T infusion 2 to 6 days later. Work with your care team to fill out the treatment schedule below.

Treatment Name	Days								
	-8	-7	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0
Bendamustine									

Appointments

Appointments may include regular check-ups with your care team, treatment appointments, lab visits, and imaging tests. It's important to keep your appointments whenever you can. If you miss any appointments, call your care provider as soon as possible to reschedule your appointment.

Supportive Care to Prevent and Treat Side Effects

Description	Supportive Care Given at the Clinic or Hospital	Supportive Care Taken at Home
To help prevent infusion-related reactions	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
To help prevent or treat nausea and vomiting	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
To help lower the risk of infections	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
To lower the risk of Tumor Lysis Syndrome (TLS)	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Other	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Common Side Effects

Side Effect	Important Information
<p>Low White Blood Cell (WBC) Count (Neutropenia) and Increased Risk of Infection</p>	<p>Description: WBCs help protect your body from infections. A low WBC count increases your risk of infection.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash your hands often and bathe regularly. • Avoid crowded places and close contact with people who are sick. • Follow food safety and wound care advice from your care team. • Your care team may prescribe medicine to help your WBCs recover. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher • Chills • New or worsening cough or sore throat • Painful urination or signs of a urinary infection • Feeling much more tired than usual • Red, swollen, warm, or painful areas on the skin (possible skin infection)
<p>Low Platelet Count (Thrombocytopenia)</p>	<p>Description: Platelets help your blood clot and wounds heal. A low platelet count increases your risk of bruising and bleeding.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blow your nose gently and avoid picking it. • Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush and keep good oral hygiene. • Use an electric razor for shaving and a nail file instead of nail clippers. • Avoid over-the-counter medicines that can increase bleeding risk (for example, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like ibuprofen). • Talk with your care team or dentist before medical or dental procedures — you may need to pause treatment. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A nosebleed lasting more than 5 minutes despite pressure • A cut that continues to bleed • Heavy gum bleeding when brushing or flossing • Sudden or severe headache • Blood in your urine or stool • Blood in your spit after coughing
<p>Low Red Blood Cell (RBC) Count and Hemoglobin (Hgb) (Anemia)</p>	<p>Description: RBCs and Hgb carry oxygen to your body’s tissues and remove carbon dioxide. Low RBC or Hgb (anemia) can make you feel weak, very tired, or look pale.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim for 7 to 8 hours of sleep each night. • Do not drive, operate heavy machinery, or do other dangerous activities if you are very tired. • Balance activity and rest — stay as active as you can, but rest when needed. • Eat a balanced diet and follow any nutrition or supplement advice from your care team. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortness of breath • Dizziness or fainting • Fast or irregular heartbeats • Sudden or severe headache

<p>Fatigue</p>	<p>Description: Fatigue is a constant and sometimes strong feeling of tiredness.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine exercise can help reduce fatigue. Talk with your care team to find the right type and amount of activity for you. • Ask family and friends for help with daily tasks and for emotional support. • Try healthy ways to feel better, such as meditation, journaling, yoga, or guided imagery, to reduce anxiety and improve well-being. • Aim for 7 to 8 hours of sleep each night. Limit daytime naps to help you sleep better at night. • Do not drive, operate heavy machinery, or do other potentially dangerous activities if you are very tired. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tiredness that affects your daily life or prevents you from doing normal activities • Tiredness that does not get better with rest • Dizziness or weakness along with severe tiredness
<p>Nausea and Vomiting</p>	<p>Description: Nausea is an uncomfortable feeling in your stomach or the need to throw up. You may or may not vomit.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eat smaller, more frequent meals. • Avoid fatty, fried, spicy, or highly sweet foods. • Eat bland foods at room temperature and drink clear liquids. • If you vomit, start with small sips of water, broth, or other clear liquids. If these stay down, try soft foods (such as gelatin, plain cornstarch pudding, yogurt, strained soup, or strained cooked cereal) and gradually return to solid foods. • Your care team may prescribe medicine for these symptoms. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vomiting for more than 24 hours • Nonstop vomiting • Signs of dehydration (very thirsty, dry mouth, dizziness, or dark urine) • Blood or coffee-ground-like appearance in your vomit • Severe stomach pain that does not go away after vomiting
<p>Liver Problems</p>	<p>Description: Treatment can cause liver injury. Your care team may check your liver with blood tests before and during treatment.</p> <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowing of your skin or the white part of your eyes (jaundice) • Severe nausea or vomiting • Pain on the right side of your stomach area (abdomen) • Dark, tea-colored urine • Bleeding or bruising more easily than normal

Select Rare Side Effects

Side Effect	Talk to Your Care Team if You Have Any of These Signs or Symptoms
Severe Skin Reactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A red, itchy, skin rash • Peeling of your skin or blisters • Severe itching • Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher
Tumor Lysis Syndrome (TLS)	<p>Tumor lysis happens when cancer cells break apart and flood your bloodstream with chemicals and toxins faster than your body can get rid of them. TLS is a group of conditions that affect your heart, kidneys, and muscles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea • Urinating smaller amounts or having dark-colored urine • Muscle cramps or twitching • Rapid heartbeats or chest pain • Confusion or weakness • Seizures
Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy (PML)	<p>PML is a rare, serious brain infection caused by a virus that can happen in people who receive bendamustine. People with weakened immune systems can get PML. PML can result in death or severe disability. There is no known treatment, prevention, or cure for PML.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confusion • Dizziness or loss of balance • Difficulty walking or talking • Decreased strength or weakness on one side of your body • Vision problems, such as blurred vision or loss of vision
Infusion-Related Reactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chills or shaking • Itching, rash, or flushing • Trouble breathing, wheezing, or tongue swelling • Dizziness or feeling faint • Feeling of impending doom • Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher • New or severe pain in your back or neck
Extravasation	<p>Extravasation happens when medicine that is supposed to go into a vein leaks out into the tissues around it. This can cause pain, swelling, and damage to the skin and tissues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pain, burning, or stinging at the infusion site • Swelling, redness, or blistering around the site • Coolness or numbness in the area • Decreased blood flow or tissue damage, potentially leading to ulcers or tissue death in severe cases
Risk of New Cancers	<p>There is a risk of developing new cancers during or after treatment. Talk with your care team about this risk, and ask about the signs and symptoms of new cancers.</p>

**Before starting treatment, ask your care team when to call 9-1-1 or seek emergency help.
If you experience any new, worsening, or uncontrolled side effects, contact your care team immediately.**

Intimacy, Fertility, Pregnancy, and Breastfeeding

- Treatment may **change how you feel about intimacy and your body**. However, physical closeness—such as holding hands and hugging—remains safe. It is common to have questions about intimacy. If needed, talk to your care team for guidance.
- Treatment can affect your **ability to have children**. It may damage your reproductive organs or stop them from working. If you are worried about fertility, talk to your care team before starting treatment.
- Treatment may **harm an unborn baby**.
 - If you are able to become pregnant:
 - Take a pregnancy test before starting treatment.
 - Use an effective method of birth control during treatment and for 6 months after your last dose of bendamustine.
 - If you think you might be pregnant or if you become pregnant, tell your care team right away.
 - If your partner is able to become pregnant, use an effective method of birth control—such as condoms—during treatment and for 6 months after your last dose of bendamustine.
- **Do NOT breastfeed** during treatment and for 1 week after your last dose of bendamustine.

Handling Body Fluids and Waste

Some drugs you receive may stay in your urine, stool, sweat, or vomit for many days after treatment. Because many cancer drugs are toxic, your body waste may also be dangerous to touch. To help protect yourself, your loved ones, and the environment, **follow these instructions** for at least **48 hours** after each dose of **bendamustine**:

- People who are pregnant should avoid touching anything that may be soiled with body fluids from the patient.
- You can use your usual toilet. Always close the lid and flush to discard all waste. If you have a low-flow toilet, flush twice.
- If the toilet or seat is soiled with urine, stool, or vomit, clean the surface after each use before others use it.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after using the toilet.
- If you need a bedpan, inform your caregiver so they can wear gloves and assist with cleanup. Wash the bedpan with soap and water daily.
- If you cannot control your bladder or bowels, use a disposable pad with a plastic back, a diaper, or a sheet to absorb waste.
- Wash any skin exposed to body waste with soap and water.
- Wash soiled linens or clothing separately from other laundry. If you don't have a washer, place them in a plastic bag until they can be washed.
- Wash your hands with soap and water after touching soiled linens or clothing.

Additional Information

- **Tell your care team about all the medicines you take.**
This includes prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, and herbal products. Before starting any new medicine, supplement, or vaccine, ask your care team first.
- **This Patient Education Sheet may not describe all possible side effects.**
Call your care team for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

Notes

Updated Date: June 29, 2026

Scan the QR code below to access this education sheet.



Important notice: The Association of Cancer Care Centers (ACCC), Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA), Network for Collaborative Oncology Development & Advancement, Inc. (NCODA), and Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) have collaborated in gathering information for and developing this patient education guide. This guide represents a brief summary of the medication derived from information provided by the drug manufacturer and other resources.

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