

Chlorambucil Taken by Mouth

Care Team Contact Information: _____

Pharmacy Contact Information: _____

Diagnosis: _____

- This treatment is often used for:
 - Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) or small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL)
 - Malignant lymphomas including lymphosarcoma
 - Giant follicular lymphoma
 - Hodgkin's disease
- It may also be used for other reasons.

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
Chlorambucil (klor-AM-byoo-sil): Leukeran (LOO-keh-run)	Slows down or stops the growth of cancer cells by damaging the genetic material that cancer cells need to multiply.	Tablet(s) taken by mouth.

Treatment Administration and Schedule

Treatment is typically repeated every day for 3 to 6 weeks, once weekly, or every 2 weeks. This length of time is called a "cycle". Talk with your care team about your exact treatment and schedule.

Your chlorambucil dosing instructions:

- Chlorambucil comes in 1 tablet strength: 2 mg.
- Your dose is based on many factors, including your weight, overall health, and diagnosis.
- Take chlorambucil 1 time a day, around the same time each day.
- Take chlorambucil on an empty stomach.
- Swallow chlorambucil tablets whole. Do not crush, cut, or dissolve the tablets.

Treatment Administration and Schedule (Continued)

- Do not change your dose or stop taking chlorambucil unless your care team tells you to.
- Your care team may tell you to change your dose, temporarily stop, or completely stop taking chlorambucil if you develop certain side effects.
- If you vomit or miss a dose of chlorambucil, take your next dose at your regular time. Do not take two doses at the same time.
- If you take too much chlorambucil, call your care team or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

Storage and Handling of Chlorambucil

- Store in the refrigerator at 36°F to 46°F (2°C to 8°C).
- If someone else is giving you your medication, they should wear gloves or pour the pills directly from the bottle into the cap, a small cup, or your hand without touching them. They should wash their hands before and after handling the pills.
- Keep chlorambucil and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.
- Ask your care team how to safely throw away any unused chlorambucil.

Appointments

Appointments may include regular check-ups with your care team, 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 Taken at Home
To help prevent or treat nausea and vomiting	
Other	

Common Side Effects

Side Effect	Important Information
Low White Blood Cell (WBC) Count (Neutropenia) and Increased Risk of Infection (Boxed Warning)	Description: WBCs help protect your body from infections. A low WBC count increases your risk of infection. Recommendations: - 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. Talk to your care team if you have: - 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)
Low Platelet Count (Thrombocytopenia) (Boxed Warning)	Description: Platelets help your blood clot and wounds heal. A low platelet count increases your risk of bruising and bleeding. Recommendations: - 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. Talk to your care team if you have: - 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
Low Red Blood Cell (RBC) Count and Hemoglobin (Hgb) (Anemia) (Boxed Warning)	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 or very tired, or may make you look pale. Recommendations: - 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. Talk to your care team if you have: - Shortness of breath - Dizziness or fainting - Fast or irregular heartbeats - Sudden or severe headache

Skin Problems	Description: Treatment can cause a rash with itchy, dry, red, or puffy skin. Recommendations: • Take a warm (not hot) bath or shower every day with mild, unscented soap or body wash. • Pat skin dry (instead of rubbing) with a towel. • Use unscented lotion or moisturizing cream immediately after showering to prevent cracking. • Use lip balm for dry or chapped lips. • Avoid activities that put you at risk for cuts, injuries or burns. • Use an electric shaver, not a razor, to prevent cuts. • Rinse cuts and scrapes immediately under running water and remove any debris from the wound. Wash the skin around the wound with soap. To avoid irritation, do not use soap on the wound. If you have a low platelet count and are at risk for bleeding issues, ask your care team how to care for cuts. • Avoid direct sun when possible. Wear a broad-spectrum sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher and reapply every 2 hours. • Use unscented, gentle laundry detergent. Some laundry detergents can irritate sensitive skin. • Your care team may recommend medicine for skin problems. Talk to your care team if you have: • Skin rash • Raised red bumps • Redness of the skin • Very dry skin that may affect the mucous membranes (such as mouth and eyes)
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Select Rare Side Effects

Side Effect	Talk to Your Care Team if You Have Any of These Signs or Symptoms	
Cognitive Effects	• Forgetfulness • Confusion • Getting lost • Trouble thinking • Drowsiness • Agitation	• Trouble staying awake (somnolence) • Muscle spasm, twitches, tremors, or weakness • Slurred speech and trouble swallowing • Seeing objects or hearing things that are not there (hallucinations) • Change in mood or behavior
Seizure	• Sudden uncontrollable jerking movements • Loss of consciousness • Confusion or "staring spells" • Muscle stiffness	• Repetitive movements (such as lip-smacking) • Sensory disturbances (like tingling or auras) • Postictal confusion (a state of confusion after the seizure)
Risk of New Cancers	There is a risk of developing one or more new cancers during or after treatment. Talk with your care team about this risk, and ask about the signs and symptoms to watch for.	

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 may 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 3 to 6 months after your last dose of chlorambucil.
 - 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 3 to 6 months after your last dose of chlorambucil.
- **Do NOT breastfeed** during treatment with chlorambucil.

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 **chlorambucil**:

- 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: July 27, 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 to gather information and develop this patient education guide. This guide is a summary of the medication, based on information provided by the drug manufacturer and other sources.

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