Pegaspargase

Patient Education Sheets
Understanding Your Cancer Treatment

Care Team Contact Information: _____

Pharmacy Contact Information: _____

Diagnosis: _____

- This treatment is used for acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL).
- 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
Pegaspargase (peg-A-spar-jays): Oncaspar (ON-kah-spar)	Slows down or stops the growth of cancer cells by reducing a nutrient that cancer cells need to grow.	• Infusion into a vein (intravenous (IV) infusion). • Injection into the muscle (intramuscular (IM) injection).

Treatment Administration and Schedule

Treatment is typically repeated every 14 days. This length of time is called a "cycle." Pegaspargase is often given in combination with other treatments. Talk with your care team about your exact treatment and schedule.

Treatment Name	Cycle 1								Next Cycle
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	…	Day 14	Day 1
Pegaspargase	✓								✓

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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 an appointment, call your care team as soon as possible to reschedule it.

Supportive Care to Prevent and Treat Side Effects

Description	Supportive Care Given at the Clinic or Hospital	Supportive Care Taken at Home
To help lower the risk of infusion- and injection-related reactions		
Other		

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Common Side Effects

Side Effect	Important Information
Low White Blood Cell (WBC) Count (Neutropenia) and Increased Risk of Infection	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
High Triglyceride Levels (Hypertriglyceridemia)	Description: Triglycerides are a type of fat found in your blood. High triglycerides usually do not cause symptoms, but very high levels may increase your risk for pancreatic or heart problems over time. Recommendations: • Choose foods low in saturated and trans fats. • Eat more foods that are high in fiber. • Stay active with regular physical activity. • Try to keep a healthy weight. • Don't smoke, and limit how much alcohol you drink. Talk to your care team if you have: • Sudden numbness or weakness • Chest pain • Other signs of a heart attack or stroke
Serious Liver Problems	Description: Treatment can cause a serious liver problem called veno-occlusive disease (VOD), also known as sinusoidal obstruction syndrome (SOS). This condition causes blockage of the small veins in the liver. Your care team may check your liver with blood tests before and during treatment. Talk to your care team if you have: • 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) • Rapid or unusual weight gain • Dark, tea-colored urine • Bleeding or bruising more easily than normal • Swollen or tight stomach area (abdomen)

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Antibody Development (Immunogenicity)	Description: Your body may make antibodies against pegaspargase over time. These antibodies can make the treatment work less well and may increase your chance of having an infusion reaction. Recommendations: • Keep all scheduled treatment and follow-up appointments. • Tell your care team if your symptoms are not improving or start to come back. • Your care team may monitor how well your treatment is working and may order blood tests if needed. • Tell your care team if you have had an infusion reaction during a previous treatment. Talk to your care team if you have: • Symptoms that return or get worse after treatment • Signs of an infusion reaction, such as fever, chills, rash, itching, trouble breathing, dizziness, or swelling during or after your infusion • New or unusual side effects after receiving treatment
Allergic Reactions, Including Anaphylaxis	Description: Allergic reactions are common during treatment with pegaspargase and can sometimes be serious. Serious allergic reactions can happen during or after your pegaspargase infusion or injection, including life-threatening allergic reactions. Talk to your care team if you have: • Itchy, raised bumps on the skin (hives) • Coughing that does not go away • Nausea or vomiting • Stomach (abdominal) pain • Increased saliva • Breathing problems such as wheezing • Throat tightness or change in voice • Fever of 100.4°F or higher • Chest discomfort • Chills or shaking • Back pain

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Select Rare Side Effects

Side Effect	Talk to Your Care Team if You Have Any of These Signs or Symptoms	
Blood Clots or Blockage (Thrombosis) in Your Blood Vessels (Veins)	• Chest pain or pressure • Swelling or pain in your arms, back, neck, or jaw • Shortness of breath • Numbness or weakness on one side of your body	• Trouble talking • Headache • Vision changes
Severe Bleeding (Hemorrhage)	• Vomiting blood or if your vomit looks like coffee grounds • Pink or brown urine • Red or black (looks like tar) stools • Coughing up blood or blood clots • Menstrual bleeding that is heavier than normal	• Unusual vaginal bleeding • Nosebleeds that happen often • Bruising • Lightheadedness
Pancreas Problems	• Upper stomach pain that may spread to your back and get worse with eating	• Weight loss • Nausea or vomiting
High Blood Sugar (Hyperglycemia)	• Frequent urination • Drowsiness • Increased thirst • Loss of appetite • Blurred vision	• Fruity smell on your breath • Confusion • Nausea, vomiting, or stomach pain • It becomes harder to control your blood sugar

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, 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 **harm an unborn baby**.
  - If you are able to become pregnant:
    - Your care team will verify your pregnancy status before treatment.
    - Use an effective method of birth control during treatment and for 3 months after your last dose of pegaspargase.
    - 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 with pegaspargase.
- **Do not breastfeed** during treatment and for 1 month after your last dose of pegaspargase.

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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

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Scan the QR code below to access this education sheet.

Important Notice:
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