Vincristine

Care Team Contact Information: _____

Pharmacy Contact Information: _____

Diagnosis: _____

- This treatment is used for many types of cancer.

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
Vincristine (vin-KRIS-teen): Oncovin (ON-koh-vin)	Slows down or stops the growth of cancer cells by preventing cancer cells from properly dividing and creating new cells.	Infusion into a vein (intravenous (IV) infusion).

Note (Boxed Warning): Vincristine must only be given as an infusion into a vein (IV). It can be life-threatening if given any other way.

Treatment Administration and Schedule

Vincristine is often given in combination with other treatments. Talk with your care team about your exact treatment and schedule.

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 prevent and treat constipation		
Other		

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Common Side Effects

Side Effect	Important Information
Constipation	Description: Constipation means hard, dry stools or fewer bowel movements than normal. It can cause discomfort or pain. Recommendations: • Track how often you have bowel movements each day. • Drink 8 to 10 glasses of fluids daily, unless your care team says otherwise. • Stay active and exercise regularly. • Eat more high-fiber foods (such as raw fruits, vegetables, and whole grains) unless advised otherwise. • Your care team may recommend laxatives such as polyethylene glycol (MiraLAX) or senna. Talk to your care team if you have: • Constipation lasting 3 or more days • No bowel movement 48 hours after using a laxative
Numbness, Tingling, or Burning in Your Hands or Feet (Peripheral Neuropathy)	Description: Nerve pain and tingling are uncomfortable sensations from nerve damage or irritation. Pain may be sharp, burning, or deep. Tingling can feel like pins-and-needles or mild electric shocks, often in the hands, feet, arms, or legs. Recommendations: • Keep a daily log of pain and sensations, noting triggers and what helps or makes it worse. • Check your feet every day for cuts, sores, blisters, or color changes, especially if numbness reduces feeling. • Wear comfortable, well-fitting shoes and avoid walking barefoot if sensation is reduced. • Protect hands and feet from extreme heat or cold. • Your care team may recommend or prescribe medicines, topical treatments, physical therapy, or supplements to help with symptoms. Talk to your care team if you have: • New or worsening “pins and needles”, burning, or numbness in your hands or feet • Trouble moving your arms or legs, or weakness • Problems with balance or frequent falls

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Hair Loss (Alopecia)	Description: Hair loss or thinning may begin days to weeks after treatment starts and usually grows back later. New growth can be a different color or texture and may not look the same as before. Recommendations: • Consider a short haircut before treatment and use scarves, hats, or wigs for comfort and confidence. • Keep your head covered outdoors to protect it from the sun and cold; apply sunscreen to your exposed scalp. • Use gentle haircare: mild shampoo, soft brush, and avoid heat styling and harsh treatments. • Ask your care team about wig prescriptions or resources for head coverings. Talk to your care team if you have: • No hair regrowth months after treatment ends • Concern about hair changes or need help finding a wig or support resources

Select Rare Side Effects

Side Effect	Talk to Your Care Team if You Have Any of These Signs or Symptoms	
Extravasation (Boxed Warning)	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. Vincristine may cause extravasation. • 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
Intestinal Problems	• Diarrhea (loose stools) or more frequent bowel movements than usual	• Stools that are black, tarry, sticky, or have blood or mucus • Severe stomach-area (abdominal) pain or tenderness
Kidney Problems	• Decrease in your amount of urine • Blood in your urine	• Swelling of your ankles • Loss of appetite
Lung Problems	• Cough • Shortness of breath	• Chest pain or tightness
Brain Problems	• Headache • Dizziness • Confusion • Memory problems • Difficulty concentrating • Fatigue	• Seizures • Muscle weakness • Tremors • Changes in mood or behavior • Sensory disturbances (such as tingling or numbness)

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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 with vincristine.
        - 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 vincristine.
- It is **not known** if vincristine is present in **breast milk**. Talk with your care team if you are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed.

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 **3 weeks** after each dose of **vincristine**:

- 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.
- **Tell your care team about all your health problems.** This includes if you have or have ever had Charcot-Marie-Tooth (CMT) syndrome, a condition that affects the nerves and can cause muscle weakness and loss of feeling. Vincristine may worsen nerve problems in people with this condition and should not be given to people with certain forms of CMT.
- **You should not receive a "live vaccine"** before, during, or after treatment, until your care team tells you it is okay. If you are not sure about the type of immunization or vaccine, ask your care team. These vaccines may not be safe or may not work as well during treatment.

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- **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: November 16, 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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