

Thioguanine (Tabloid)

About This Medicine

THIOGUANINE (thye oh GWAH neen) treats leukemia. It works by slowing down the growth of cancer cells. It is given orally (by mouth).

This medicine may be used for other purposes; ask your care team if you have questions.

Possible Side Effects

- Bone marrow suppression. This is a decrease in the number of white blood cells, red blood cells, and platelets. This may raise your risk of infection, make you tired and weak, and raise your risk of bleeding.
- Nausea and vomiting (throwing up)
- Soreness of the mouth and throat. You may have red areas, white patches, or sores that hurt.
- Decreased appetite (decreased hunger)
- Changes in your liver function

Note: All possible side effects are not included. Your side effects may be different depending on your cancer diagnosis, condition, or if you are receiving other medicines in combination. Please discuss any concerns or questions with your care team.

Warnings and Precautions

- Severe changes in your liver function and blockage of small veins in the liver, which can cause liver failure and be life-threatening.
- High blood pressure in the portal vein, the vein that carries blood from your stomach, intestines, and other organs to your liver.
- Severe bone marrow suppression
- Tumor lysis syndrome: This medicine may act on the cancer cells very quickly. This may affect how your kidneys work.
- Severe and life-threatening tissue damage in the lining of the intestine can happen. If not treated, the cells of the inner lining of the intestine can die (necrosis) and may cause a hole in the wall of the intestine.

Note: Some of the side effects above are very rare. If you have concerns and/or questions, please discuss them with your care team.

Important Information

- Let your care team know if you have a thiopurine methyltransferase (TPMT) or nucleotide diphosphatase (NUDT15) deficiencies.
- Talk to your care team before receiving any vaccinations during your treatment. Some vaccinations are not recommended while receiving thioguanine.

How to Take Your Medicine

- Swallow the medicine as prescribed by your care team.
- **Missed dose:** If you vomit or miss a dose, contact your care team for further instructions. Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.
- **Overdosage:** If you think you have taken too much of this medicine contact a poison control center or emergency room at once.
- **Handling:** Wash your hands after handling your medicine. Your caretakers should not handle your medicine with bare hands and should wear latex gloves.
- This medicine may be present in the urine, stool and other body fluids such as blood, vomit, semen, and vaginal fluids. Take precautions to prevent others from coming in contact with your medicine or your body fluids. Follow safety precautions during your treatment and for as long as directed by your care team after your treatment. If you take a pill each day, follow these precautions every day.
- **Storage:** Store this medicine in the original container at room temperature. Keep out of the reach of children and pets.
- **Disposal of unused medicine:** Do not flush any expired and/or unused medicine down the toilet or drain unless you are specifically instructed to do so on the medicine label. Some facilities have take-back programs and/or other options. If you do not have a take-back program in your area, then please discuss with your care team how to dispose of unused medicine.

Treating Side Effects

- Manage tiredness by pacing your activities for the day.
- Be sure to include periods of rest between energy-draining activities.
- To decrease the risk of infection, wash your hands regularly.
- Avoid close contact with people who have a cold, the flu, or other infections.
- Take your temperature as your care team tells you, and whenever you feel like you may have a fever.
- To help decrease the risk of bleeding, use a soft toothbrush. Check with your care team before using dental floss.
- Be very careful when using knives or tools.
- Use an electric shaver instead of a razor.
- Drink enough fluids to keep your urine pale yellow.



- If you throw up, you should drink more fluids so that you do not become dehydrated (lack of water in the body from losing too much fluid).
- To help with nausea and vomiting, eat small, frequent meals instead of three large meals a day. Choose foods and drinks that are at room temperature. Ask your care team about other helpful tips and medicine that is available to help stop or lessen these symptoms.
- Mouth care is very important. Your mouth care should consist of routine, gentle cleaning of your teeth or dentures and rinsing your mouth with a mixture of 1/2 teaspoon of salt in 8 ounces of water or 1/2 teaspoon of baking soda in 8 ounces of water. This should be done at least after each meal and at bedtime.
- If you have mouth sores, avoid mouthwash that has alcohol. Also avoid alcohol and smoking because they can bother your mouth and throat.
- To help with decreased appetite, eat small, frequent meals. Eat foods high in calories and protein, such as meat, poultry, fish, dry beans, tofu, eggs, nuts, milk, yogurt, cheese, ice cream, pudding, and nutritional supplements.
- Consider using sauces and spices to increase taste. Daily exercise, with your care team's approval, may increase your appetite.

Food and Medicine Interactions

- There are no known interactions of thioguanine with food.
- Check with your care team about all other prescription medicines and over-the-counter medicines and dietary supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbs, and others) you are taking before starting this medicine as there are known medicine interactions with thioguanine. Also, check with your care team before starting any new prescription or over-the-counter medicines, or dietary supplements to make sure that there are no interactions.

When to Call Your Care Team

Call your care team if you have any of these symptoms and/or any new or unusual symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher
- Chills
- Tiredness that interferes with your daily activities
- Feeling dizzy or lightheaded
- Easy bleeding or bruising
- Pain in your mouth or throat that makes it hard to eat or drink
- Trouble swallowing
- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking and/or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Throwing up more than 3 times a day or throwing up blood (may look like coffee grounds)
- Blood in your bowel movement (red or black tarry bowel movements)
- Diarrhea (loose bowel movements) or constipation (not able to move bowels)
- Bloating in your abdomen that does not go away
- Severe pain in your abdomen that does not go away
- Enlarged veins (varices) on your abdomen or esophagus



- Lasting loss of appetite or rapid weight loss of five pounds in a week
- Signs of possible liver problems: dark urine, pale bowel movements, pain in your abdomen, feeling very tired and weak, unusual itching, or yellowing of the eyes or skin
- Signs of infection: fever or chills, cough, trouble breathing, severe pain in your abdomen, trouble urinating, burning or pain when you pass urine, redness and/or swelling of the skin
- Signs of tumor lysis: confusion or agitation, decreased urine, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, muscle cramping, numbness and/or tingling, seizures.

Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** This medicine may cause serious birth defects. If you can become pregnant, use birth control while taking this medicine. Tell your care team right away if you think you might be pregnant.
- **Breastfeeding warning:** Talk with your care team about breastfeeding during treatment. You may need to stop breastfeeding.
- **Fertility warning:** This medicine may affect your ability to have children in the future. If you plan to have children, talk with your care team.

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