

MEDICATION INFO SHEET

TRETINOIN (TRET-I-noyn)

Other Names for this Medication:

Vesanoid® (Brand name), All-trans retinoic acid (ATRA) (Other name)

Appearance:

Capsules: one half reddish-brown/ half brownish-yellow opaque capsule containing 10 mg of Tretinoin.

Why this Medication is Used:

This medication is used to treat a certain kind of leukemia (acute promyelocytic leukemia)

How do you take this Medication:

Follow the directions on your prescription on how to take this medication. This medication should be taken with food and a glass of water. If you have any questions, consult your doctor or pharmacist.

Precautions:

- Tretinoin may harm the unborn baby if used during pregnancy. Severe birth defects or death to the unborn baby may occur. **Two** forms of **birth control** must be used if there is ANY chance that you may become pregnant while being treated with tretinoin and for one month after treatment. Tell your doctor right away if you become pregnant. Do not breast feed during treatment.
- Tretinoin may make you more sensitive to sunlight. Wear a hat and cover exposed skin while you are receiving this medication. Use a sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15.
- Tretinoin can interact with other medications. Tell your doctor or pharmacist about ALL medications (including herbal and over-the-counter medications) you are taking before starting on this medication. Tell your doctor if you are taking ketoconazole, tetracycline, any vitamin A preparation and birth control pills.
- Store in a cool dry place and **out of reach of children**.
- It is important to tell your doctor if you have chickenpox (or have recently been exposed to someone who has had chickenpox), shingles, kidney disease or liver disease. Any of these conditions could affect therapy with this medication.
- Due to increased risk of infection check with your doctor before having any vaccinations. Check with your doctor, before any surgery or dental work.
- Do not take ASA without your doctor's knowledge and consent.
- If a doctor has advised you to take ASA to prevent heart disease or stroke, please discuss this with your oncologist (cancer doctor) before starting treatment.
- Do not use ASA (aspirin, acetylsalicylic acid) for headache, fever, or occasional aches and pains; use acetaminophen (Tylenol) instead. Many non-prescription medications contain ASA; always ask your pharmacist's advice when choosing a product.

SIDE EFFECTS

PREVENTION

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

MORE COMMON

- Headache (may lessen as your body adjusts to the medicine)
- Tiredness, lack of energy
- Dry lips and mouth.
- Dry skin

- Rest often.
- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Use lip balm
- Apply a moisturiser to dry skin several times a day

- One or two acetaminophen (Tylenol®) tablets may help. Try cold compresses. Contact your doctor if this persists.
- If possible schedule a nap after taking your medicine. Don't drive a car or operate machinery if you are sleepy.
- Suck on hard candy or ice chips.
- Clean your teeth regularly.

LESS COMMON

- Retinoic acid syndrome – fever, shortness of breath, trouble breathing, tightness in chest, liver, kidney and multi-organ failure
- Nausea and vomiting (May lessen as your body adjusts to the medicine.)

- Take medication with food
- Drink clear fluids. Get fresh air and rest frequently
- See Nausea and Vomiting pamphlet.

- Call your doctor immediately if you have more than one of these signs and symptoms.
- Drink plenty of clear fluids.
- Call your doctor if nausea and vomiting persists longer than 24-48 hours.
- Your doctor may prescribe medicine to treat the nausea and vomiting.

RARE

- Pain or swelling in legs
- Trouble breathing
- Calf tenderness or hardened vein

- Your doctor will check for any signs of blood clots at regular check up visits

- Contact your doctor or nurse IMMEDIATELY
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