

# APREPITANT

Other names: Emend®



**Important note:** The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

## Why you are taking this medication

Aprepitant (ap re' pi tant) is a medicine that is used with other medications to prevent nausea and vomiting caused by cancer chemotherapy. It is a capsule that you take by mouth.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or allergic reaction to aprepitant before taking this medication.

It is important to take aprepitant exactly as directed by your doctor. Aprepitant is usually given thirty to ninety minutes before your chemotherapy treatment on Day 1, and in the morning on Days 2 and 3 (the next 2 days).

You may be given capsules of more than one strength. Make sure you understand the directions.

You may take aprepitant with food or on an empty stomach.

Store aprepitant capsules out of the reach of children, at room temperature, away from heat, light and moisture.

Tell doctors, dentists, and other health professionals that you are being treated with aprepitant before you receive any treatment from them.

## Other medication

Other drugs may interact with aprepitant. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking other medicine including herbal or complementary products and medicines you can buy without a prescription.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start taking any new medicines.

Alcohol (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of aprepitant.

## Pregnancy and breast feeding

Aprepitant may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use an appropriate method of birth control while being treated with aprepitant and for at least one month after your last dose.

Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant.

Do not breast feed during treatment with aprepitant.

## Side effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on your body that are unwanted. These are called *side effects*.

Side effects are listed in the following table in the order in which they may occur. Tips to help manage the side effects are included.

SIDE EFFECTS	WHAT TO DO
<b>Constipation or diarrhoea</b> may occur.	<p>To help constipation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exercise if you can.</li> <li>• Try to drink plenty of fluids.</li> </ul> <p>If diarrhoea is a problem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids.</li> <li>• Eat and drink often in small amounts.</li> <li>• Avoid high fibre foods.</li> </ul>
<b>Headache</b> may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take paracetamol every 4-6 hours if required to a maximum of 4 g (8 tablets) each day.</li> </ul>

**Stop taking aprepitant and see your doctor or get emergency help immediately if you have:**

- Signs of an **allergic reaction** (this is rare) soon after a treatment including dizziness, fast heartbeat, face swelling or breathing problems.
- Signs of **heart problems** such as fast, slow, or uneven heartbeat.

**See your doctor as soon as possible (during office hours) if you have:**

- Signs of **liver problems** such as such as yellow eyes or skin, white or clay-coloured stools.
- Signs of **kidney problems** such as lower back or side pain, swelling of feet or lower legs.
- **Skin rash or itching.**

**Check with your doctor if any of the following continue or bother you:**

- Uncontrolled nausea or vomiting, diarrhoea or constipation.
- Headache not controlled with paracetamol.
- Weakness, tiredness or dizziness.
- Stomach pain, heartburn, hiccoughs, belching, or loss of appetite.

**Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist**