

THIOGUANINE

Other names: Lanvis®



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

Thioguanine (thye-oh-GWON-een) is a medicine that is used to treat many types of leukaemia. It is a tablet that you take by mouth.

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

Take thioguanine at the same time each day with a full glass of water. Thioguanine may be taken with food or on an empty stomach. Tablets must be swallowed whole. Do not chew, break or crush the tablets. Take thioguanine exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the directions.

If you vomit within one hour of taking thioguanine, check with your doctor. You will be told whether to take the dose again or to wait until your next scheduled dose.

If you miss a dose of thioguanine, take it as soon as you can if it is within 12 hours of the missed dose. If it is over 12 hours since your missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times. Contact your doctor during office hours to ask about making up the missing dose.

Your doctor may tell you to drink extra fluids so that you will pass more urine. This helps prevent kidney problems.

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

A blood test may be taken before each treatment. The dose and timing of your chemotherapy may be changed based on the test results and/or other side effects.

Talk to your doctor before receiving any immunisations.

Tell other doctors or dentists that you are being treated with thioguanine before you receive any treatment from them.

Other medication

Other drugs may interact with thioguanine. 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 thioguanine.

Pregnancy and breast feeding

It is not known if thioguanine causes sterility in men or menopause in women. If you plan to have children, discuss this with your doctor before being treated with thioguanine.

It is best to use birth control while being treated with thioguanine. Thioguanine may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy.

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

Do not breast feed during treatment with thioguanine.

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*.

Changes in your blood

This medicine may cause temporary changes in your blood. Your doctor will be following these changes carefully by performing blood tests. Adjustment of your treatment may be needed in certain circumstances.

EFFECT ON YOUR BLOOD	WHAT TO DO
<p>Normal white blood cells protect your body by fighting bacteria (germs) that cause infection.</p> <p>When they are low you are at greater risk of having an infection.</p>	<p>To help prevent infection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash your hands often and always after using the toilet. • Avoid crowds and people who are sick. • See your doctor <i>immediately</i> at the first sign of an infection such as fever (a body temperature of 38°C or more by an oral thermometer), chills, cough, or burning when you pass urine.
<p>Normal platelets help your blood to clot normally after an injury.</p> <p>When the platelet count is low you may be more likely to bruise or bleed.</p>	<p>To help prevent bleeding problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try not to bruise, cut or burn yourself. • Clean your nose by blowing gently. Do not pick your nose. • Avoid constipation. • Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush as your gums may bleed more easily. Maintain good oral hygiene. <p>Some medicines such as aspirin or ibuprofen may increase your risk of bleeding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not stop taking any medication that has been prescribed by a doctor. • For minor pain, try paracetamol first.

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
Nausea does not normally occur with thioguanine.	
Hair loss does not occur with thioguanine.	

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

- Signs of an **allergic reaction** (rare) soon after a treatment including flushing, fever, rash, itching, dizziness, fast heart beat, face swelling or breathing problems.
- Signs of an **infection** such as fever (a body temperature of 38°C or more using an oral thermometer); shaking chills; cough; severe sore throat, productive cough (coughing up thick or green sputum), cloudy or foul smelling urine, painful, tender or swollen red skin wounds or sores.
- Signs of **bleeding problems** such as black, tarry stools; blood in urine; pinpoint red spots on skin, extensive bruising.

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

- Signs of **anaemia** such as unusual tiredness or weakness.
- Signs of **liver problems** 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.
- Signs of **gout** such as joint pain.
- Trouble in **walking**.

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

- Uncontrolled nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea.
- Easy bruising or minor bleeding.
- Redness, swelling, pain or sores on your lips, tongue, mouth or throat.
- Skin rash or itching.

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