Anagrelide

- **Anagrelide** is a drug that is used to treat certain types of blood cancers. It is a capsule that you take by mouth. The capsule contains lactose.
- **Blood tests** may be taken during your treatment at regular intervals. The dose and timing of your chemotherapy may be changed based on your blood count and/or other side effects.
- It is important to **take** anagrelide exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the directions. Anagrelide may be taken with food or on an empty stomach with a glass of water or juice.

- If you **missed a dose** of anagrelide:

* **For 4 times a day dosing:** Take it as soon as you can if it is within 3 hours of the missed dose. If it is over 3 hours since your missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing time.

* **For 2 times a day dosing:** Take it as soon as you can if it is within 6 hours of the missed dose. If it is over 6 hours since your missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times.

- **Store** anagrelide capsules out of the reach of children, at room temperature, away from heat, light and moisture.
- Some drugs, herbal products and supplements may **interact** with your treatment. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any of these or before you start taking any new drugs.

- Anagrelide may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with anagrelide. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breastfeed during treatment.

- **Tell** doctors, dentists or other healthcare providers that you are being treated with this medication before you receive any other treatment from them.

Changes in blood counts

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

BLOOD COUNT	MANAGEMENT
Normal platelets help your blood to clot normally after an injury (e.g., cut). **When the platelet count is low you may be more likely to bruise or bleed.**	To help prevent bleeding problems: • 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. Some medications such as aspirin, ibuprofen or other pain medications may increase your risk of bleeding. • For minor pain, try paracetamol (Panadol®) • Refer to your doctor if any of this medication has been prescribed to you

Side effects that may occur and tips for management

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Nausea and vomiting may occur while you are taking anagrelide. Most people have little or no nausea.	You will be given a prescription for anti-nausea drug(s) to take before your chemotherapy treatment and/or at home. It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred, so follow directions closely. • Drink plenty of liquids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts.
Diarrhea may occur.	To help diarrhea: • Drink plenty of liquids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts. • Avoid high fiber foods Note: If **lactose** in milk usually gives you diarrhea, the lactose in the capsule may be causing your diarrhea, consult your doctor.
Swelling of hands, feet or lower legs may occur if your body retains extra fluid.	• Elevate your feet when sitting. • Avoid tight clothing.
You may feel **drowsy and/or dizzy** when you first start taking anagrelide. This should lessen as your body adjusts to the drug.	• Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you are feeling drowsy, dizzy, or less alert than usual. • Avoid alcohol as it may make you more drowsy or dizzy.
Palpitations (forceful heartbeat) may occur while you are taking anagrelide.	Discuss the problem with your doctor.
Abnormal heart rhythm (QT prolongation) **rarely** occurs.	• Always check with your pharmacist and doctor about drug interactions when starting a new medication, herbal product, or supplement. • Tell your doctor or visit the Urgent Care Unit at the National Center for Cancer Care and Research (NCCCR) immediately if your heart is beating irregularly or fast, OR if you feel faint, lightheaded, or dizzy.
Headache may occur.	Take paracetamol (Panadol ®).
Hair loss is rare. Your hair will grow back once you stop treatment .Colour and .texture may change	• Use a gentle shampoo and soft brush. • Apply mineral oil to your scalp to reduce itching.
Your **skin may sunburn** more easily than usual.	To help prevent sunburn: • Avoid direct sunlight. • Wear a hat, long sleeves and long pants or skirt outside on sunny days. • Apply a sun block lotion with an SPF (sun protection factor) of at least 30.

SEE YOUR DOCTOR OR GET EMERGENCY HELP IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE:

- Signs of **heart** or **lung problems** such as a fast or uneven heartbeat, anxiety, cold sweats, severe pain or pressure in the chest and/or jaw, neck, back or arms, and shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
- Signs of **bleeding problems** such as black tarry stools; blood in urine; pinpoint red spots on skin.
- Signs of an **allergic reaction** soon after starting treatment including dizziness, fast heartbeat, face swelling or breathing problems.
- Sudden severe **headache or weakness.**

SEE YOUR DOCTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (DURING OFFICE HOURS) IF YOU HAVE:

- Signs of **anemia** 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 the feet or lower legs, numbness or tingling in feet or hands, painful or difficult urination, blood in urine.
- **Abdominal or stomach pain.**
- **Dizziness** that continues or is bothersome.
- **Blurred or double vision.**
- **Easy bleeding or bruising.**

CHECK WITH YOUR DOCTOR IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONTINUE OR BOTHER YOU:

- Uncontrolled nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, or heartburn.
- General feeling of discomfort or illness, fever or chills.
- Headache.
- Extreme tiredness, difficulty sleeping, depression, confusion, nervousness.
- Redness, swelling, pain or sores on your lips, tongue, mouth or throat.
- Skin rash or itching.
- Muscle pain, joint pain, leg cramps, back pain.
- Unusual sensitivity to light.
- Ringing in your ears.

REPORT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS TO YOUR DOCTOR

This is a summary of useful information to help you understand and take your medicine safely .

We are available to answer your questions For urgent inquiries contact :

- **Urgent care unit at the National Center of Cancer Care and Research (NCCCR) TEL : 44397179 (available 24 hours, all week days).**

For further information or question contact :

- **Your doctor** (from 7 am – 3 pm) .
- **Clinical Pharmacy section,** TEL: 44397239 (Sun-Thurs from 7 am – 3 pm) .
- **Outpatient Pharmacy**, TEL: 44397531, 44397825 (Sun-Thurs from 7 am – 3 pm) .

Pharmacy Department

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