Pentostatin (pen toe STAT in)  
Patient Education

US Brand Names: **Nipent**  
Therapeutic Category: monoclonal antibody, targeted therapy

**What is this medicine used for?**  
Used to treat cancer. More specifically this particular drug is used to treat cutaneous T-cell lymphoma and chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL).

**How does it work?**

- Pentostatin works by killing rapidly growing cells. This drug will affect all fast growing cells, including both cancer cells and normal cells, in your body.

**What should my doctor or nurse know before I take this medication?**

- If you are allergic to any medicines.
- If you are taking other over the counter or prescription medicines, including vitamins and herbal remedies.
- If you are, or may be pregnant.
- If you are breast feeding.
- If you have liver problems.

**How is this drug given?**

- This medicine can be used alone or in combination with other cancer medicine.
- This medicine is given into a vein.

**What are the general precautions when taking this medicine?**

- Talk with your doctor or nurse before taking aspirin, aspirin-containing products, over-the-counter or prescription medications, including vitamins and herbal remedies.
- Drink 8 to 10 glasses of non-caffeinated liquid every day (unless told otherwise by your doctor or nurse).
- If you or your partner can get pregnant, use birth control during your treatment. Once completing treatment, discuss the timing for discontinuing birth control measures with your provider. (pt. teaching sheet fertility)
What are the common side effects of this medicine?

- Changes in your skin such as acne, dry skin, itchy skin. Limit sun exposure and use sunblock.
- May cause you to experience anxiety, confusion, nervousness, insomnia, dizziness, and abnormal thinking.
- May cause changes in your liver function if you are on a high dose. If you are on a high dose, your liver function will be monitored while you are taking this medication.
- May pose an increased risk for your developing an infection.

Danger signals to report immediately to your doctor or nurse:

- Signs or symptoms of infection. This includes a fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or greater, chills, severe sore throat, ear or sinus pain, cough, increased sputum or change in color, painful urination, mouth sores, wound that will not heal, or anal itching or pain.
- Severe nausea or vomiting or diarrhea not controlled by medication.
- Not able to eat or drink.
- Bleeding from your nose, mouth, gums, or in your urine or bowel movements. Bruising that does not heal.
- Feeling extremely tired, weak, dizzy or light headed.

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