Temsirelimus (tem sir OH li mus)  
Patient Education

US Brand Names: Torisel
Therapeutic Category: targeted therapy

What is this medicine used for?
Used to treat cancer. More specifically this particular drug is used to treat advanced renal cell cancer

How does it work?
Targeted therapy such as temsirolimus reacts with certain proteins on the surface of a cell in your body. This medicine can be made to target a protein on a certain type of cancer cell. Some targeted therapies will affect a cancer cell and/or normal cells.

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 heart disease.

How is this drug given?
- 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).
- Avoid eating or drinking grapefruit juice, St John’s Wort as long as you are receiving temsirolimus.

What are the common side effects of this medicine?
- Allergic reaction during infusion: itching, chills, fever, shortness of breath, drop in blood pressure. You
will receive pre-medication to reduced your risk of allergic reaction.

- May be delay wound healing
- May cause an increase in blood sugar or worsen diabetes. Your doctor will talk about tightening your sugar control.
- Myelosuppression (drop in number of blood cells)
  May cause a drop in the number of white blood cells in your body. These cells fight infection. A drop in the number of these cells puts you at risk for infection (Neutropenia). You may be at an increased risk for getting an infection during your treatment. Talk to your doctor or nurse about your risk. Avoid people with infections, colds or flu when you are at risk. (pt. teaching sheet Neutropenia)

May cause a drop in the number of platelets in your body (thrombocytopenia). Platelets help your blood clot. A drop in platelets puts you at risk for bleeding. You may bleed easily during your treatment. Talk to your doctor or nurse about your risk. Avoid injury to your skin and mucous membranes by using a soft toothbrush, electric razor, etc when you are at risk. (pt. teaching sheet thrombocytopenia)

May cause a drop in the number of your red blood cells in your body. Red blood cells carry oxygen through out your body. This drop in red blood cells may lead to you feeling tired/fatigued (Anemia). Talk to your doctor or nurse about your risk. (pt. teaching sheet fatigue)

- 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)

**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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