CHLORAMBUCIL

klor-am-bew-sil

What does it do?

Chlorambucil is used to treat some types of cancer and some kidney conditions.

Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have liver or blood problems; or if you have ever had a seizure.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding. If you or your partner are planning to become pregnant, or find you are pregnant, discuss this with your doctor. Both men and women should use reliable contraception while taking *chlorambucil*, and for 3 months after stopping.
- *Chlorambucil* can affect fertility in men and women – discuss with your doctor.
- *Chlorambucil* weakens your immune system, making it harder for your body to fight infections. You may need tests before you start to make sure you don't have any infections like tuberculosis (TB), HIV, or hepatitis B and C.
- Ask your doctor what vaccines you might need before you start and while you are taking *chlorambucil*. You should not have a live vaccine while taking *chlorambucil*.

How should you take it?

Take *chlorambucil* regularly as directed with a glass of water. Swallow the tablets whole – do not break, crush or chew.

What if you forget a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as possible. If it is close to the time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and carry on as normal. Do not take two doses at the same time.

Can you take other medicines?

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products (e.g. echinacea) or recreational drugs.

What side effects might you notice?

Side Effects	Recommended action
Reduced number of blood cells that fight infections or help your blood to clot - symptoms include: fever, chills, sore throat or generally feeling unwell, or easy or unusual bruising or bleeding Seizures Symptoms of liver problems including: yellow skin or eyes, itching, dark urine, pale bowel motions, abdominal pain Short of breath, persistent dry cough	Tell your doctor immediately
Tremor, tingling or numbness Skin rash Dizziness, pale skin	Tell your doctor
Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea	Tell your doctor if troublesome

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

Other information:

- You will need regular blood tests while taking *chlorambucil* to check if it is causing problems with your liver or blood.
- Protect yourself from too much sunlight while taking immunosuppressant medicines (they may increase your risk of skin cancer). Always cover up and apply a thick layer of broad spectrum sunscreen (at least SPF30) when outside. Do not use sunbeds.
- Women using *chlorambucil* for a long time may need cervical screening more often. Discuss with your doctor.
- It is important to tell anyone who gives you medical or dental treatment that you are taking *chlorambucil*.
- Store *chlorambucil* tablets in the fridge. Do not freeze.