

# BLENOXANE\*

*Bleomycin Sulphate*

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## CONSUMER MEDICINE INFORMATION

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### What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Blenoxane. It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you being given Blenoxane against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

**If you have any concerns about being given this medicine, ask your doctor.**

**Keep this leaflet, you may need to read it again.**

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### What Blenoxane is used for

Blenoxane is used in the treatment of various types of cancers such as skin cancer, and cancers of the head, neck, lymph glands and gullet. Some times Blenoxane is used in the treatment of cancers of the penis, testis, voice box or cervix.

Blenoxane may also be used to treat or prevent the build up of fluid in the lungs which can result from cancer.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why Blenoxane was prescribed for you.

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### Before you are given Blenoxane

#### ***When you must not be given Blenoxane***

You should not be given Blenoxane if you have ever had an allergic reaction to Blenoxane (bleomycin sulfate).

Symptoms of an allergic reaction to Blenoxane may include:

- \* Shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing
- \* Swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body
- \* Rash, itching or hives on the skin

**If you are not sure whether you should be getting Blenoxane, talk to your doctor.**

#### ***Before you are given Blenoxane***

**Tell your doctor if you have ever had allergies to:**

- \* Any other medicine
- \* Any other substances, such as foods, preservatives or dyes

**Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.**

Your doctor will discuss the possible risks and benefits of using Blenoxane during pregnancy.

**Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed.**

Your doctor will discuss the possible risks and benefits of using Blenoxane during breast-feeding.

**Tell your doctor if you have now, or have had in the past, any medical conditions, especially the following:**

- \* lymphoma
- \* any sort of lung disease
- \* lung cancer
- \* any disease of your kidneys or liver
- \* if you are over 70 years of age

**If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you are given Blenoxane.**

#### ***Taking other medicines***

**Tell your doctor if you are taking or using any other medicines, including any that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.**

The medicines you take may be affected by Blenoxane, or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicine, or you may need to take or use different medicines. Your doctor will advise you, they may have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while you are being given Blenoxane.

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### How Blenoxane is given

#### ***How much is given***

Your doctor will decide what dose you will receive. It is based on your size and on the type of cancer. The dose worked out for you may be

different to the dose for another patient.

### **How it is given**

Blenoxane will be given to you in a hospital, by a doctor or nurse. It is given by injection and may be injected into a muscle, into a vein or artery, under your skin or into your chest. It may be given alone or with other anticancer medicines.

### **When it is given**

Blenoxane may be given as one treatment or may be given daily for a number of days. The treatment may be repeated once or many times. Your doctor will explain the treatment regimen to you.

### **Overdose**

Blenoxane will be given to you under the supervision of a doctor so it is most unlikely that you will receive too much.

**However if you experience severe side effects you must tell your doctor or a nurse immediately.**

You may need urgent medical attention.

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## **While you are being given Blenoxane**

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### **Things you must do**

Be sure to keep all your doctor's appointments so your progress can be checked. You will require regular chest x-rays during treatment with Blenoxane.

**Tell your doctor or nurse if you have any concerns before during or after your treatment with Blenoxane.**

**Tell any other doctors, dentists or pharmacists who are treating you that you are being given Blenoxane.**

**If you are about to be started on any new medicine, tell your doctor, dentist or pharmacist that you are being given Blenoxane.**

**If you plan to have surgery that needs a general anaesthetic, tell your doctor or dentist that you are being given Blenoxane, or have been given Blenoxane within the last 12 months.**

**If you become pregnant while being treated with Blenoxane, tell your doctor or pharmacist.**

### **Things to be careful of**

**Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how being treated with Blenoxane affects you.**

As with other medicines used to treat cancer Blenoxane may cause tiredness and drowsiness in some people. Make sure you know how you react to Blenoxane before you drive a car, operate machinery, or do anything else that could be dangerous if you are tired or drowsy. If this occurs do not drive.

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## **Side effects**

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Tell your doctor or a nurse as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are being given Blenoxane.

Like other cancer medicines, Blenoxane helps most people who have cancer, but it may have unwanted side effects. Some of these side effects may be prevented or treated by therapy with other medicines. If side effects do occur, their severity usually depends on the dose of Blenoxane you have received.

The effects of Blenoxane may take some time to occur and therefore the side effects may be delayed. It is possible that the unwanted side effects may not occur until months after Blenoxane is given.

**Ask your doctor to answer any questions you may have.**

**Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following and they worry you:**

- \* nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite or weight loss
- \* fever, chills, headache or feeling tired or unwell
- \* mouth ulcers, nail changes or loss of hair
- \* discolouration, thickening, ulceration, tenderness, peeling or bleeding of the skin; rashes or pimples
- \* pain, irritation or swelling at the injection site

These are the more common side effects of Blenoxane.

Mouth ulcers and the effects on skin may be more severe if Blenoxane is given with radio therapy to the head and neck.

These effects disappear slowly if treatment with Blenoxane is stopped.

**Tell your doctor (or a nurse) immediately (if you are in hospital) or go to the Accident and Emergency department of your nearest hospital if you notice any of the following:**

- \* difficulty breathing, cough, fever
- \* chest pain
- \* sudden collapse, shock
- \* problems with urination, pain or difficulty
- \* severe nausea and vomiting
- \* yellowing of the skin or eyes

These may be serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention.

Other side effects not listed above may occur in some patients (particularly when Blenoxane is given with other anticancer medicines).

**Tell your doctor (or a nurse) if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.**

**Do not be alarmed by this list of side effects.**

You may not experience any of them.

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## **After you have been given Blenoxane**

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The benefits and side effects of Blenoxane may take some time to occur. Therefore even after you have finished receiving your Blenoxane treatment you should tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the side effects listed above.

### ***Storage:***

Blenoxane will be stored in the hospital pharmacy or the ward. Unopened vials of Blenoxane should be stored in a cool dry place at a temperature below 25 degrees C.

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## **Product description**

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### ***What it looks like***

Blenoxane is a yellowish white powder, which will be dissolved in water for injections (or a saline solution) before it is injected.

### ***Ingredients***

The active ingredient in Blenoxane is bleomycin sulfate 15 000 I.U./vial,

### ***Manufacturer/Distributor***

Blenoxane is manufactured by Nippon Kayaku Co Ltd (Japan) for Bristol- Myers Squibb.

In Australia Blenoxane is distributed by:

Bristol-Myers Squibb  
Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd  
556 Princes Highway  
NOBLE PARK VIC 3174

### ***Australian Registration Number***

AUST R 19244

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\* Blenoxane is a trademark of a Bristol-Myers Squibb Company

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