

Patient Information Leaflet: Information for the user
Bleocip
Bleocip for Injection USP

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.

If any of the side effects gets serious, or you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

In this leaflet:

1. What Bleocip is and what it is used for
2. Before you use Bleocip
3. How to take Bleocip
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Bleocip
6. Further information

1. WHAT BLEOCIP IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR

Bleocip is an anti-cancer drug (chemotherapy) used for treating certain types of cancer. Bleocip is used to treat cancer known as squamous cell carcinoma which can affect the mouth, nose, throat, skin, cervix or external genitalia.

It is also used to treat Hodgkin's disease and other types of cancer of the blood, as well as to treat fluid producing cancers in the cavity around the lungs or in the abdomen, and to treat testicular teratoma.

Bleocip is also of value in treating malignant melanoma (a type of skin cancer) and thyroid, lung and bladder cancer.

2. BEFORE YOU USE BLEOCIP

Do not use Bleocip

- if you are allergic (hypersensitive) to bleomycin or to any similar anti-cancer medicine
- if you have a chest infection
- if you have scarring of the lungs
- if you have greatly reduced lung function

If any of these apply to you, tell your doctor.

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor before using Bleocip if you have or have recently had any of the following:

- kidney problems
- lung problems or you have been receiving oxygen
- severe heart disease
- liver function that is impaired
- chicken pox
- radiation to the chest.

You must also tell your doctor if you have an operation planned, as it may be necessary to adjust your treatment with Bleocip.

Other medicines and Bleocip

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are using, have recently used or might use any other medicines, as some medicines could interact with Bleocip.

When Bleocip is used with vinca alkaloids (another type of cancer drug) to treat cancer of the testes, Raynaud's disease (poor blood circulation which makes the toes and fingers numb and pale) has been reported.

Use of Bleocip together with cisplatin or radiation to the chest can cause interstitial pneumonia (serious inflammation of the lungs) and pulmonary fibrosis (scarring of the lungs which leads to shortness of breath).

Use of Bleocip with clozapine should be avoided, as it may cause more severe reduction in number of white blood cells which makes infections more likely (agranulocytosis).

Use of cytotoxics (medicines that kill cancer cells) may lower the absorption of phenytoin.

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility

If you are pregnant, breast-feeding, or think you may be pregnant do not take this medicine. If you are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor for advice before using Bleocip.

Driving and using machines

A few people have reported that they feel tired or weak after the treatment. Do not drive or use any tools or machines if you are affected.

Excipient:

Bleocip contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per vial, i.e. essentially 'sodium-free'.

3. HOW TO USE BLEOCIP

Bleocip powder from one or more vials will be dissolved in saline (a weak salt solution that mixes well with body fluids). The solution is usually given by injection into muscle tissue or a blood vessel or into the chest or abdominal cavity depending on the type of cancer. Occasionally, it is injected directly into a tumour.

The usual treatment is for 2 or 3 days in one week and may be repeated in subsequent weeks. Sometimes the treatment is given on consecutive days for up to 5 or 10 days.

The precise dosage, frequency of dosing and duration of treatment with Bleocip will depend on your age, weight, medical condition and whether Bleocip is being given in combination with other drug treatment.

If other medicines or radiotherapy are also being used in your treatment or if you have kidney disease or reduced kidney function, the amount of Bleocip given to you may be reduced.

Use in children and adolescents

The dose is calculated in relation to child body weight and such treatment will probably take place under the supervision of a specialist treatment centre.

If during treatment you develop a dry cough, breathlessness, rapid breathing or anything else which suggests your lungs might be affected, you may require to be monitored by X-rays of your chest that could continue up to 4 weeks after the end of treatment.

If you are given more Bleocip than you should

If you have been accidentally given a higher dose you may experience symptoms such as fever, low blood pressure and rapid pulse. Your doctor may give you supportive treatment for any symptoms that may occur.

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Like all medicines, Bleocip can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. These might occur at the time of treatment or might occur at some later time.

If you notice any of the following reactions **tell your doctor immediately:**

- breathlessness
- inflammation of the lungs (interstitial pneumonia) – fever, chills, shortness of breath or a cough
- severe allergic reaction – you may experience a sudden itchy rash (hives), swelling of the hands, feet, ankles, face, lips, mouth or throat (which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing), and you may feel you are going to faint.

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

If you experience any of the following **tell your doctor or nurse as soon as possible:**

Very common: (these may affect more than 1 in 10 patients)

- fever on the day of treatment
- loss of appetite and weight loss
- nausea and vomiting
- lung problems
- sore mouth and mouth ulcers
- changes in skin colour, or itchy skin
- hardening, thickening, redness, tenderness or swelling of the tips of the fingers
- hair loss
- ridging of nails, blisters on pressure points e.g. elbows

- numbness, pain or colour changes to the fingers, toes and tip of the nose, and hardening and tightening of skin

Common: (these may affect between 1 in 10 and 1 in 100 patients)

- headache
- bleeding
- skin rash, redness of the skin
- soreness at the corners of the mouth

Uncommon: (these may affect between 1 in 100 and 1 in 1,000 patients)

- dizziness
- changes in urinating or pain when urinating
- low white blood cell count
- liver problems
- blood vessel changes (narrowed or enlarged)
- diarrhoea
- pain, swelling, redness or tenderness at the site of the injection or at the site of the tumour

The following side effects have been reported since the marketing of Bleocip but the frequency for them to occur is not known:

Overwhelming infection (sepsis), severe reduction in blood cells (pancytopenia), reduction in blood platelets (thrombocytopenia), reduction in red blood cells (anaemia), neutropenia (reduced white blood cells), chest pain, heart attack, reduced blood flow to the fingers, toes and tip of the nose (Raynaud's syndrome or digital ischaemia), blood clots (embolism), blood clotting (thrombosis) and a type of stroke (cerebral infarction).

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly **via the local reporting system**. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. HOW TO STORE BLEOCIP

- Keep out of the reach and the sight of children.
- Store under refrigeration between 2°C – 8°C (36-46° F).
- Do not use the Bleocip after the expiry date on the carton. The expiry date is the last day of that month.

Medicines should not be disposed of via waste water or in household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measure will help protect the environment.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

What Bleocip contains

- The active substance is Bleomycin.
- The other ingredients are-Sodium hydroxide pellets, water for injection

You can find important information about some of the ingredients in your medicine near the end of section 2 of this leaflet.

What Bleocip looks like and contents of the pack

Carton containing one vial of 5 ml

Marketing Authorisation Holder:

Cipla Ltd

Cipla House, Peninsula Business Park, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel,

Mumbai – 400 013, India

Tel: (9122) 24826000

Fax: (9122) 24826120

Email: contactus@cipla.com

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