

## PART III: CONSUMER INFORMATION

### PrVELCADE® bortezomib for Injection

This leaflet is Part III of a three-part "Product Monograph" published when VELCADE® was approved for sale in Canada and is designed specifically for Consumers. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about VELCADE®. Contact your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about the drug.

#### ABOUT THIS MEDICATION

##### What the medication is used for:

VELCADE® is used for the treatment of adult patients with:

- Previously untreated Multiple Myeloma (MM) who are unsuitable for stem cell transplantation as part of combination therapy. MM is a cancer of the bone marrow
- Previously untreated MM who are suitable for stem cell transplantation as part of a medically recognized combination therapy for initial treatment prior to stem cell transplant.
- Relapsed MM
- Previously untreated mantle cell lymphoma who are unsuitable for stem cell transplantation. VELCADE® will be given as part of a medically recognized combination therapy. Mantle cell lymphoma is a cancer of the blood that affects the white blood cells.
- Relapsed/refractory mantle cell lymphoma.

##### What it does:

VELCADE® is a chemotherapy medicine, which is medicine used to kill cancer cells.

##### When it should not be used:

Do not use VELCADE® if you are allergic (hypersensitive) to bortezomib, boron or to any of the other ingredients of VELCADE®.

VELCADE® must not be given intrathecally.

##### What the medicinal ingredient is:

bortezomib mannitol boronic ester

##### What the nonmedicinal ingredients are:

mannitol

##### What dosage forms it comes in:

VELCADE® is available as a powder which will be dissolved in a sterile sodium chloride solution before being injected.

Each pack of VELCADE® contains one glass vial. Each vial contains 3.5 mg of bortezomib (as a mannitol boronic ester).

The vial stopper is free of natural rubber latex.

#### WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

##### **Serious Warnings and Precautions**

VELCADE® must be administered under the supervision of a physician qualified in the use of anti-cancer drugs.

Overdose ( $\geq 2X$  recommended dose) could result in death.

Serious side effects that may occur with VELCADE® include:

- Low blood pressure and other serious heart disorders
- Bleeding into the brain or gastrointestinal tract (stomach or bowel)
- Muscle weakness due to nerve damage (severe motor neuropathy)
- Acute lung disease (acute diffuse infiltrative pulmonary disease)

BEFORE you use VELCADE®, talk to your doctor or pharmacist if:

- you have had any bleeding problems, a low level of red blood cells, platelets, or white blood cells, as these conditions may become worse during treatment with VELCADE®;
- you are suffering from diarrhea, constipation, nausea or vomiting, as this may become worse during VELCADE® treatment;
- you have any problems with your heart or blood pressure including a history of fainting, dizziness or light-headedness;
- you have any problems with your kidneys;
- you have any problems with your liver;
- you have had any problems in the past with numbness, tingling, or pain in the hands or feet (neuropathy); (This effect may become worse during VELCADE® treatment.);
- you have been diagnosed in the past with a condition called amyloidosis (abnormal protein deposition in tissues);
- you have shortness of breath with activity (progressively worsens), cough, and difficulty breathing; (Symptoms may develop or worsen during VELCADE® treatment.)
- you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant or breast-feeding.

VELCADE® has not been studied in children or adolescents.

##### **Contraception and Pregnancy:**

Both men and women must use effective contraception while receiving VELCADE®, and for 3 months after their treatment. You must make sure that you do not become pregnant while receiving VELCADE®, but if you do, inform your doctor immediately. VELCADE® may cause harm to your unborn baby.

##### **Breast-feeding:**

It is advised that you do not breast-feed while you are receiving VELCADE®. If you wish to restart breast-feeding after your VELCADE® treatment, you must discuss this with your doctor or nurse, who will tell you when it is safe to do so.

### **Driving and using machines:**

VELCADE® might cause low blood pressure that may lead to tiredness, dizziness, fainting, or blurred vision. Do not drive or operate any dangerous tools or machines if you experience such side effects. Even if you have not felt these effects, you must still be cautious.

## **INTERACTIONS WITH THIS MEDICATION**

Inform your doctor, medical health personnel or pharmacist about all medicines you are taking, whether prescribed for you or bought without a prescription.

If you are a patient on oral antidiabetic medication while receiving VELCADE® treatment, check your blood sugar level frequently. Call your doctor if you notice an unusual change.

## **PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICATION**

VELCADE® is to be given to you as an injection. VELCADE® may be injected:

- a. into the vein (intravenous injection). The injection will take 3 to 5 seconds, or
- b. under the skin (subcutaneous injection) of the thigh (right or left) or abdomen (right or left). The site of injection should be rotated for each following injection. New injections should be at least one inch (2.5 cm) from an old site and never into the areas where the site is tender, bruised, red, or hard.

### **Usual dose:**

The dose will be calculated from your height and weight. The usual dose is 1.3 mg/m<sup>2</sup> body surface area.

### **Frequency of treatment:**

#### **Previously Untreated Multiple Myeloma**

The treatment consists of nine 6-week treatment cycles. Each treatment cycle consists of 6 weeks. In cycles 1-4, VELCADE® is given twice weekly on days 1, 4, 8, 11, 22, 25, 29 and 32. In cycles 5-9, VELCADE® is given once a week on days 1, 8, 22 and 29.

#### **Patients Suitable for Stem Cell Transplantation**

If you have not been treated before for multiple myeloma, you will receive VELCADE® together with other medicines as initial treatment before you receive high dose chemotherapy and bone marrow transplantation. VELCADE® will be given on days 1, 4, 8 and 11, followed by a rest period without treatment. The dose may be adjusted based on how you respond to the treatment.

Your doctor will choose the other chemotherapy medicines for you.

#### **Relapsed Multiple Myeloma and Relapsed/Refractory Mantle Cell Lymphoma**

VELCADE® is given twice weekly on days 1, 4, 8 and 11 of a 3-week treatment cycle. In maintenance treatment, VELCADE® is given once a week for 4 weeks on days 1, 8, 15 and 22.

Your doctor may change the dosage during the treatment, and will decide the total number of cycles that you need. It all depends on your response to the treatment.

#### **Previously Untreated Mantle Cell Lymphoma**

If you have not been treated before for mantle cell lymphoma you will receive VELCADE® together with other chemotherapy agents as prescribed by your doctor. VELCADE® is given on days 1, 4, 8 and 11, followed by a 'rest period' without treatment. The duration of a treatment cycle is 21 days (3 weeks). You might receive up to 8 cycles (24 weeks).

### **Overdose:**

If you think that you have been given VELCADE® more frequently than you should, or too high a dose, or in case of drug overdose, contact a health care practitioner, hospital emergency department or regional Poison Control Centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms.

### **Missed dose:**

If you think that you have missed a dose of VELCADE®, tell your healthcare provider immediately.

## **SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM**

Like all medicines, VELCADE® can have side effects. The following are the most commonly reported side effects (≥10%):

*Blood and lymph disorders:* Low red blood cells, white blood cells or platelets causing anemia, bruising or bleeding

*Eye disorders:* blurred vision

*Gastrointestinal disorders:* feeling sick in the stomach or loss of appetite, diarrhea, constipation, vomiting, abdominal pain, heartburn, stomach ulcers

*General disorders:* general ill feeling, tiredness, or a feeling of weakness, fever, swelling (around the arms, legs or face), shivering

*Infections:* shingles (herpes zoster virus), flu-like symptoms, chest and other infections

*Metabolism and nutrition disorders:* dehydration, losing weight

*Musculoskeletal disorders:* joint or muscle stiffness, muscle cramps, muscle or bone pain, back pain

*Nervous system disorders:* numbness, tingling or burning sensation in the hands or feet, headache, dizziness

*Psychiatric disorders:* difficulty in sleeping, anxiety or depression (feeling down), confusion

*Respiratory disorders:* shortness of breath, cough

*Skin disorders:* rash and/or itching, hives, redness, pain at the injection site when injected under the skin

*Cardiovascular disorders:* sudden fall of blood pressure on standing which may lead to fainting, pericarditis or inflammation of the lining around the heart, increase in blood pressure

The types of side effects that may be experienced are similar whether VELCADE® is given by subcutaneous injection or by intravenous injection.

If you notice these or any other effects not mentioned in this leaflet, inform your doctor or pharmacist.

<b>SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM</b>		
Symptom / effect	Talk with your doctor or pharmacist	
	Only if severe	In all cases
<b>Common</b>		
Fever		✓
Chest and other infections including shingles		✓
Diarrhea	✓	
Vomiting	✓	
Dehydration (dry mouth, excessive thirst, dark yellow urine)		✓
Nausea	✓	
Difficulty breathing/breathlessness	✓	
Altered sensation/pins and needles in hands or feet	✓	
Pain and altered sensation		✓
Bleeding from gums or other sites or abnormal bruising		✓
Tiredness/lethargy	✓	
Joint pain and muscle cramps	✓	
Headache	✓	
Low blood pressure (dizziness or fainting)		✓
Increase in blood pressure		✓
<b>Uncommon</b>		
Swelling of face or neck		✓
Swelling of ankles	✓	
Chest palpitations/awareness of abnormal heart rhythm/abnormal electrical signal from an electrocardiogram (ECG) reading		✓
Angina (chest pain)	✓	
Loss of appetite	✓	
Severe abdominal pain with or without bleeding		✓

<b>SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM</b>		
Symptom / effect	Talk with your doctor or pharmacist	
	Constipation	✓
Yellowing of skin or whites of eyes		✓
Skin rash		✓
Difficulty moving limbs, walking or speaking, stroke		✓
Confusion		✓
Seizure (fits)		✓
Loss of control or inability to pass urine		✓
Muscle weakness	✓	
New onset or worsening neurological signs or symptoms such as confusion or problems thinking, loss of balance, blurred vision or loss of vision, decreased strength or weakness in an arm or leg or change in the way of walking or talking (these may be signs of a serious brain infection and your doctor may suggest further testing and follow-up)		✓
Anaphylactic (allergic) reaction		✓
<b>Rare</b>		
Red and swollen eyelids (blepharitis) or cyst in the eyelid (chalazion)	✓	
<b>Very Rare</b>		
Blood clot in very small blood vessels (also called 'thrombotic microangiopathy'), which is usually associated with bleeding, bruising, and kidney injury.		✓

Two cases of sudden death have been reported in clinical trials with VELCADE®.

*This is not a complete list of side effects. For any unexpected effects while taking VELCADE®, contact your doctor or pharmacist.*

### HOW TO STORE IT

VELCADE® should be kept out of the reach of children.

VELCADE® should be stored between 15 to 30°C. Keep the container in the outer carton in order to protect it from light. Do not use after the expiry date stated on the vial and the carton.

The reconstituted solution may be stored for 8 hours at 25°C in the original vial or a syringe prior to administration, with a maximum of 8 hours in the syringe.

## **REPORTING SUSPECTED SIDE EFFECTS**

You can report any suspected adverse reactions associated with the use of health products to the Canada Vigilance Program by one of the following 3 ways:

- Report online at MedEffect®  
(<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medeffect-canada/adverse-reaction-reporting.html>)
- Call toll-free at 1-866-234-2345
- Complete a Canada Vigilance Reporting Form and:
  - Fax toll-free to 1-866-678-6789, or
  - Mail to: Canada Vigilance Program  
Health Canada  
Postal Locator 1908C  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

Postage paid labels, Canada Vigilance Reporting Form and the adverse reaction reporting guidelines are available on the MedEffect® Canada Web site  
(<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medeffect-canada/adverse-reaction-reporting.html>)

***NOTE: Should you require information related to the management of side effects, contact your health professional. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.***

## **MORE INFORMATION**

For questions, concerns, or the full Product Monograph go to:  
[www.janssen.com/canada](http://www.janssen.com/canada)  
or contact the manufacturer, Janssen Inc., at:

1-800-567-3331 or 1-800-387-8781.

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