



Provincial Health Services Authority

For the Patient: SMILALD

Other Names: Intralesional Therapy for In-Transit Melanoma using Aldesleukin (IL-2) (PROLEUKIN®)

SM = Skin and Melanoma (tumour group)

IL = Intralesional

ALD = Aldesleukin

ABOUT THIS MEDICATION

What is this drug used for?

- Aldesleukin (al-des-LOO-kin) is a drug that is used to treat some types of skin cancer that is injected into the skin lesion.

How do these drugs work?

- Aldesleukin helps increase production of several immune system components of the found in the blood, including T lymphocytes and natural killer cells. It also may improve the function of other immune system cells, such as lymphokine-activated killer cells and tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes. This helps your body fight cancer.

INTENDED BENEFITS

- This drug is being given to destroy and/or limit the growth of cancer cells in your body. This treatment may improve your current symptoms, and delay or prevent the onset of new symptoms.
- It may take some time before your doctor can judge whether or not this medicine is helping.

TREATMENT SUMMARY

How are these drugs given?

- This medication is given as a series of injections into the skin lesion by your cancer doctor.

OTHER INSTRUCTIONS

What other drugs or foods can interact with aldesleukin?

- Other drugs may **interact** with aldesleukin. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start or stop taking any other drugs including all prescription and non-prescription medicines, steroids or other medicines that lower your immune response, vitamins, vaccines and herbal supplements.
- The drinking of alcohol (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of aldesleukin.

Other important things to know:

- **Before you are given aldesleukin**, talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you:
 - have an active condition where your immune system attacks your body (autoimmune disease), such as ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, lupus, rheumatoid arthritis or sarcoidosis.
 - take other medicines that make your immune system weak. Examples of these may include steroids, such as prednisone or dexamethasone.
 - had an organ transplant, such as a kidney transplant.
 - had a hypersensitivity reaction to aldesleukin, interleukin-2, or any other components of the product.
 - have any other medical conditions.
- Aldeseukin may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. For both men and women: Do not conceive a child (get pregnant) while taking Aldesleukin. Barrier methods of contraception, such as condoms, are recommended. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Discuss with your doctor when you may safely become pregnant or conceive a child after therapy.
- Aldesleukin may pass into your breast milk. **Do not breastfeed** during treatment.
- **Tell** doctors or dentists that you are being treated with aldesleukin before you receive any treatment from them.

SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

Aldesleukin injections are generally well-tolerated.

Possible side effects are listed in the following table. Tips to help manage the side effects are included.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Your skin may become red and itchy where the aldesleukin was injected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is a normal and expected reaction which will slowly heal.• Leave it open to the air.• Keep it clean and dry.• Avoid infection by not scratching the area.
A flu-like illness may occur shortly after your treatment. You may have fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, and joint aches. Flu-like symptoms usually disappear on their own.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours if needed, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day.• Fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer) which occurs more than a few days after treatment may be a sign of an infection. Report this to your doctor immediately.
Healed treatment sites may become red and itchy with each new treatment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is a normal and expected reaction.

SEE YOUR DOCTOR OR GET EMERGENCY HELP IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE:

- Signs of an **allergic reaction** (rare) soon after a treatment including dizziness, fast heart beat, face swelling, or breathing problems.
- Signs of heart problems such as fast or uneven heartbeat, chest pain, or fainting.

SEE YOUR DOCTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (DURING OFFICE HOURS) IF YOU HAVE:

- **Fever with chills, headache, muscle and joint aches** that do not go away with acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) or that last longer than two to three days.
- Increased **redness, pain or pus** at the treatment site starting three weeks or more after your treatment.

If you experience symptoms or changes in your body that have not been described above but worry you, or if any symptoms are severe, contact:
_____ at telephone number _____