

ASTROMIDE®

Temozolomide

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about ASTROMIDE. It does not contain all the available information.

It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking ASTROMIDE against the benefits this medicine is expected to have for you.

If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet.

You may need to read it again.

What ASTROMIDE is used for

ASTROMIDE belongs to a group of medicines called cytotoxic or chemotherapy medicines.

ASTROMIDE works by killing cancer cells and stopping cancer cells from growing and multiplying.

ASTROMIDE is used to treat patients with brain tumours. ASTROMIDE is also used to treat adult patients with advanced metastatic malignant melanoma.

Your doctor, however, may prescribe ASTROMIDE for another purpose.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why ASTROMIDE has been prescribed for you.

This medicine is only available with a doctor's prescription.

Use in children

ASTROMIDE capsules are used to treat children 3 years and older, with specific forms of brain tumour (glioblastoma multiforme or anaplastic astrocytoma, showing recurrence or progression after standard therapy).

Before you take ASTROMIDE

When you must not take it

Do not take ASTROMIDE if:

1. **you are allergic to ASTROMIDE (temozolomide), dacarbazine (DTIC) or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.**

Symptoms of an allergic reaction may include:

- hives, itching or skin rash
- swelling of the face, lips or tongue. This may lead to difficulty swallowing.
- shortness of breath, wheezing, difficulty breathing or a tight feeling in your chest.

2. **you or your partner are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.**

ASTROMIDE may cause birth defects if either the male or female is using ASTROMIDE at the time of conception or during pregnancy. Therefore, female patients must have a negative pregnancy test before starting ASTROMIDE. Both male and female patients and their partners should each use some kind of birth control while taking ASTROMIDE. Male patients whose partners are already pregnant should use a condom to minimise exposure of the

unborn baby to ASTROMIDE in the sperm.

3. **you are breastfeeding.**
4. **you have a very low level of white blood cells, red blood cells or platelets.**

Do not use ASTROMIDE after the expiry date printed on the bottle.

Do not use ASTROMIDE if the packaging shows signs of tampering.

Before you start to take it

You must tell your doctor if:

1. **you vomit frequently.**
Your doctor may give you medicine to control the vomiting.
2. **you are anaemic or have blood clotting problems.**
3. **you intend to have children.**
ASTROMIDE may cause infertility in men.
4. **you have liver or kidney problems.**
ASTROMIDE could cause hepatitis B to become active again, which can be fatal in some cases.
5. **you have allergies to:**
 - any other medicines
 - any other substances, such as foods, preservatives or dyes.

Taking other medicines

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

Some medicines may be affected by ASTROMIDE or may affect how well ASTROMIDE works. These include other medicines used to treat cancer or any other treatment that may lower your immune system. You may need different amounts of your medicine or you may need to use different medicines. Your doctor will advise you.

How to take ASTROMIDE

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor carefully.

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

How much to take

Your doctor has worked out the exact dose of ASTROMIDE for you according to your individual needs.

You may be given other medication to take before or after ASTROMIDE to help stop nausea.

If you are taking ASTROMIDE in combination treatment with radiation (newly diagnosed patients):

If you are a patient with a newly diagnosed brain tumour, your doctor will start you on a dose of ASTROMIDE every day for 42 days (up to 49 days) in combination with radiation therapy. This is the first part of the treatment ("concomitant phase") in which you complete the radiation therapy. Your treatment will be interrupted for 4 weeks to give your body a chance to recover.

Then, you will start the next phase of treatment ("adjuvant phase") and your

ASTROMIDE dose will change. In this phase, there are up to 6 treatment cycles. Each treatment cycle lasts 28 days. You will take your new dose of ASTROMIDE capsules once daily for the first five days ("dosing days") of each cycle, followed by 23 days without ASTROMIDE; this adds up to a 28 day treatment cycle. After day 28, the next cycle will begin, in which you will again take this medicine once daily for five days followed by 23 days without ASTROMIDE. Before each new treatment cycle begins, your blood will be tested to determine if the ASTROMIDE dose needs to be adjusted.

If you are taking only ASTROMIDE (patients treated for recurrent brain tumour):

Take the dose the doctor has prescribed once a day for five days.

Depending on your response to ASTROMIDE, a new treatment cycle will begin each 28 days. You will then take this medicine again once daily for five days.

Before each new treatment cycle, your blood will be tested to see if the dose needs to be changed.

How to take it

Each time you start a new treatment cycle, be sure you understand exactly how many capsules of each strength you need to take on each day of dosing.

All patients

ASTROMIDE comes in different strength capsules (shown on the outer label in mg). Each strength is a different colour. Depending on the dose of ASTROMIDE that your doctor prescribes, you may have to take several capsules on each dosing day of the treatment cycle.

Be sure you understand exactly how many capsules you need to take of each strength. Ask your doctor or pharmacist to write down the number of each strength (include colour) that you need to take on each dosing day.

- Be sure you know exactly which days are your dosing days.
- Be sure you review the dose with your health care provider each time you start a new cycle. Sometimes the dose or the mix of capsules you need to take will be different from the last cycle.

Once you take the medicine home, if you are confused or unsure about how to take your dose, call for re-instruction before beginning the treatment cycle. Errors in how you take this medicine may have serious health consequences

Swallow the capsules whole with a glass of water. Do not open or chew the capsules.

When to take it

Take ASTROMIDE without food at least one hour before a meal.

It is good practice to take ASTROMIDE at about the same time each day.

If vomiting occurs after you take your capsules, do not take another dose that day.

How long to take it

Your doctor will tell you when your treatment should be stopped.

If you forget to take it

If you miss a dose, take the missed dose as soon as possible during the same day. If a full day has gone by, check with your doctor.

Do not double the next dose unless your doctor tells you to do so.

If you take too much (overdose)

Immediately telephone your doctor or Poisons Information Centre (Phone 13 11 26 - Australia or 0800 764 766 - New Zealand) for advice, if you think you or anyone else may have taken too much ASTROMIDE. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

While you are taking ASTROMIDE

Things you must do

Tell all doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are being treated with ASTROMIDE.

Tell your doctor if you feel sick or vomit while being treated with ASTROMIDE. Your doctor may give you another medicine to help stop this.

Tell your doctor if you become unusually pale or tired, get blood clotting problems or frequent infections while being treated with ASTROMIDE.

These could be caused by a low level of red blood cells, platelets or white blood cells in the blood. This is more common in patients over 70 years of age. Your doctor may need to change your dose of ASTROMIDE.

If you or your partner becomes pregnant while you are being treated with ASTROMIDE, tell your doctor.

Be sure to keep all your doctor's appointments so your progress can be checked.

Your doctor may need to do some blood and other tests from time to time to check on your progress and detect any unwanted side effects.

Keep follow up appointments with your doctor.

It is important to have your follow-up doses of ASTROMIDE at the appropriate times to get the best effects from your treatment.

If you are about to be started on any new medicine, tell your doctor, dentist or pharmacist that you are being treated with ASTROMIDE.

Store ASTROMIDE out of the reach of children.

Things you must not do

Do not open the capsules. If a capsule is damaged, avoid contact with your skin, eyes and nose. Avoid inhaling the powder. If you touch the powder or get some in your eyes or nose, wash the area with water.

Do not give ASTROMIDE to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.

Do not use ASTROMIDE to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.

Things to be careful of

Be careful driving or operating machinery, until you know how ASTROMIDE affects you.

As with other medicines, ASTROMIDE may make some people feel tired.

If this occurs do not drive.

Side effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking ASTROMIDE.

Like other medicines that treat cancer, ASTROMIDE may have unwanted side effects. Sometimes they may be serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical attention if you get some of these side effects.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

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

- nausea, vomiting, feeling unwell
- tiredness, sleepiness
- constipation
- headacheloss of appetite or weight
- diarrhoea
- fever or high temperature
- rash, hair loss, itching
- dizziness, weakness
- general body pain
- stomach pain, indigestion
- different taste sensation
- mouth ulcers
- coughing
- sleeplessness

These are the more common side effects of ASTROMIDE.

Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you notice any of the following:

- shortness of breath
 - tingling or numbness in hands or feet
 - bruising, bleeding or being unusually pale or tired
- This could be caused by a low level of platelets or red blood cells in the blood.
- new or recurring cytomegalovirus infection and return of hepatitis B
 - symptoms of diabetes include passing large amount of urine and constant thirst
 - symptoms such as fever, headache, personality change, seizures, and/or vomiting which could be associated with a brain infection caused by herpes virus.
 - shivering that is associated with chills and fever
- This could be sign of an infection caused by a low level of white blood cells in the blood.
- development of red or purple spots under the skin

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

These last two side effects of ASTROMIDE may take some time to occur. Therefore, even after you have finished your treatment with ASTROMIDE, you should tell your doctor immediately if you notice these side effects.

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some patients.

Tell your doctor if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell.

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

You may not experience any of them.

After using ASTROMIDE

Storage

Keep your ASTROMIDE capsules in the bottle until it is time to use them.

Keep ASTROMIDE in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C.

Do not leave it in the car or on window sills.

Keep it where children cannot reach it.

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Disposal

Return any unused medicine to your pharmacist.

Product description

What it looks like

ASTROMIDE 5 mg capsules are white and green.

ASTROMIDE 20 mg capsules are white and yellow.

ASTROMIDE 100 mg capsules are white and pink.

ASTROMIDE 140 mg capsules are white and blue.

ASTROMIDE 180 mg capsules are white and orange.

ASTROMIDE 250 mg capsules are white.

Glass Bottles: Each glass bottle contains 5 capsules.

Sachets: Each sachet contains 1 capsule. There are 5 sachets in a pack.

Tell your pharmacist if you notice any change in the appearance of the capsule.

Ingredients

Active ingredient:

Temozolomide

Inactive ingredients:

- lactose
 - sodium starch glycollate
 - stearic acid
 - tartaric acid
 - colloidal anhydrous silica
- The capsule shells also contain the following ingredients:
- gelatin
 - titanium dioxide
 - sodium lauryl sulfate
 - Indigo Carmine CI73015 (ASTROMIDE 5 mg & 140 mg)
 - Iron Oxide Yellow CI77492 (ASTROMIDE 5 mg, 20 mg & 180 mg)
 - Iron Oxide Red CI77491 (ASTROMIDE 100 mg & 180 mg)

ASTROMIDE does not contain sucrose, gluten, tartrazine or other azo dyes.

Manufacturer

In Australia:

Merck Sharp & Dohme (Australia) Pty Limited
Level 1, Building A
26 Talavera Road
Macquarie Park NSW 2113
Australia

In New Zealand:

Merck Sharp & Dohme (New Zealand) Limited
P O Box 99 851

Newmarket
Auckland 1149
New Zealand

Australian Registration Numbers

ASTROMIDE 5 mg: AUST R 144780,
AUST R 197463

ASTROMIDE 20 mg: AUST R 144774,
AUST R 197464

ASTROMIDE 100 mg: AUST R 144781,
AUST R 197465

ASTROMIDE 140 mg: AUST R 163678,
AUST R 197466

ASTROMIDE 180 mg: AUST R 163679,
AUST R 197467

ASTROMIDE 250 mg: AUST R 144785,
AUST R 197468

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