



PAMIDRONATE

OTHER NAMES: Aredia

PURPOSE: Pamidronate is a drug that may be given in addition to chemotherapy in the treatment of multiple myeloma in order to decrease or prevent bone pain or fractures.

Pamidronate may also be used to decrease high levels of calcium in the blood (hypercalcemia).

ADMINISTRATION: Pamidronate is given by injection into a vein.

SIDE EFFECTS: Note that these are possible side effects only.

SIDE EFFECT	MANAGEMENT
Fever and flu-like symptoms may appear 48 hours after treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• These symptoms usually disappear on their own.• Use acetaminophen (Tylenol® and others) as directed to lessen these symptoms.
Nausea	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This rarely requires treatment and may resolve in a short time.
Headache	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use acetaminophen (Tylenol® and others) as directed to relieve mild to moderate pain.
Drowsiness and/or dizziness are rare, but may occur for 1-2 days after treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you feel drowsy, dizzy, or less alert than usual.• Avoid alcohol as it may make you more drowsy or dizzy.
Pain, redness, or tenderness may occur where the needle was placed. This may not occur until several days after the treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apply warm compresses or soak in warm water for 15-20 minutes several times a day.
Other symptoms you experience may include muscle cramps, swelling of the feet or legs, lower back or side pain, or shortness of breath	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report these to your doctor.

OTHER IMPORTANT PRECAUTIONS:

- Other medications may interact with pamidronate. Do not start taking new medications without checking with your doctor or pharmacist. Tell your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist if you are taking any other prescription or non-prescription medicines, vitamins, or herbs.
- Inform other doctors, dentists, or pharmacists that you are receiving pamidronate.
- Inform your doctor, nurse, and pharmacist if you develop any new allergies or sensitivities.
- If you experience any symptoms or problems not listed above, inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

If you have any questions regarding this or any other drug therapy, please phone your cancer centre.

Cross Cancer Institute – (780) 432-8771, Tom Baker Cancer Centre – (403) 521-3764
Central Alberta Cancer Centre – (403) 343-4802, Grande Prairie Cancer Centre – (780) 538-7288
Lethbridge Cancer Centre – (403) 329-0633, Medicine Hat Cancer Centre – (403) 529-8817

OR
