

Tioguanine: information for families

This information sheet explains what tioguanine is, how it is given and some of the possible side effects. Each person reacts differently to medicines, so your child will not necessarily suffer from every side effect mentioned. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

Please read this in conjunction with any patient information leaflet provided by the manufacturer. However, please note that this information sheet explains about the use of tioguanine in children and young people so may differ from the manufacturer's information.

What is tioguanine?

Tioguanine is a medicine used to treat certain types of cancer and leukaemia.

How is it given?

For the treatment of leukaemia, tioguanine is given by mouth in tablet or liquid form once a day. It should be taken one hour after food in the evening but not with milk products as these affect how the medicine is absorbed. Please wait one further hour before giving your child food or milk. Your child can drink clear fluids.

What are the side effects?

Bone marrow suppression

There will be a temporary reduction in how well your child's bone marrow works. This means your child may become anaemic (reduced red blood cells), bruise or bleed more easily than usual, and have a higher risk of infection.

Your child's blood counts will be checked regularly to see how the bone marrow is working. Please tell your doctor if your child seems unusually tired,

has bruising or bleeding, or any signs of infection, especially a high temperature.

Diarrhoea

Please tell the doctor or nurse if your child has diarrhoea that is not controlled or persists. It is important that your child drinks plenty of fluids.

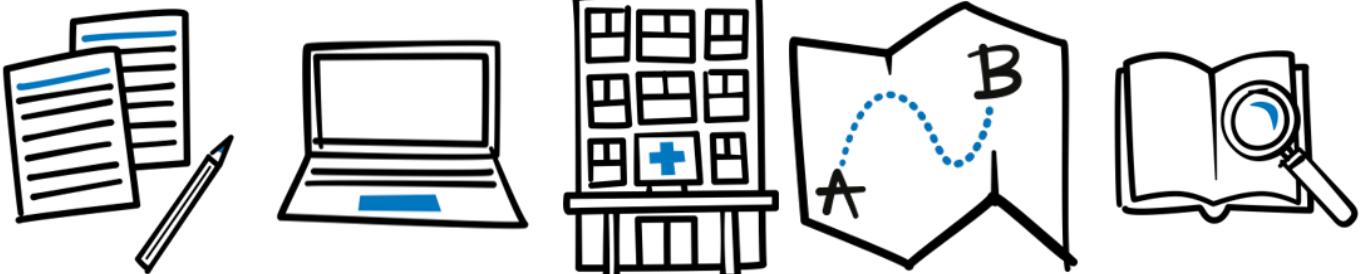
Nausea and vomiting

Anti-sickness medicines can be given to reduce or prevent these symptoms. Please tell your doctor or nurse if your child's sickness is very bad or continues for more than a few days.

Temporary effect on liver function

Some children are sensitive to tioguanine, which can cause changes in liver function. This should return to normal when the treatment is finished. If your child's liver function is temporarily affected to a serious degree, then the treatment will be changed.

Blood tests (LFTs) will be taken to monitor your child's liver function. Please contact your doctor immediately if your child complains of pain in their



right side or the whites of their eyes or their skin develops a yellow tinge.

Interactions with other medicines

Some medicines can react with tioguanine, altering how well it works. Always check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving your child any other medicine, including medicines on prescription from your family doctor (GP), medicines bought from a pharmacy (chemist) or any herbal or complementary medicines.

Giving tioguanine at home

If your child cannot swallow tablets, you can ask the pharmacist for the liquid preparation.

Accidental spillages

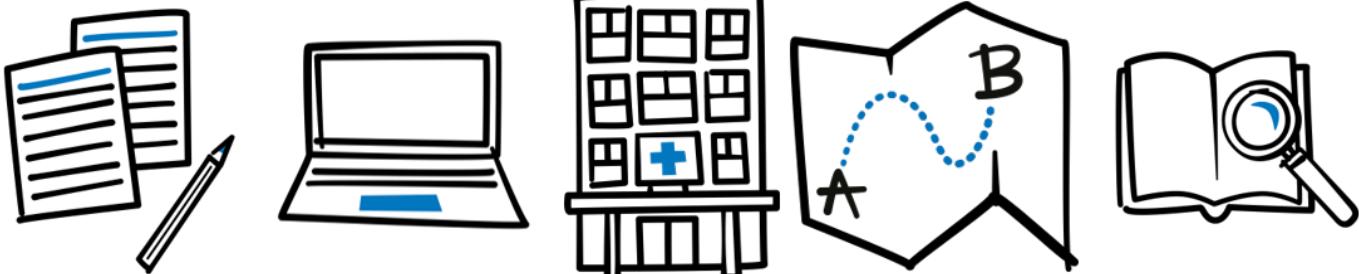
- If the mixture gets onto your skin, you must wash the area immediately, using plenty of water. If the skin is sore you should contact your GP (family doctor) for advice.
- If the mixture accidentally gets into your eyes, wash with plenty of running water for at least 10 minutes. If your eyes are sore after this, you should go to your nearest Accident and Emergency (A&E) department.
- If the mixture is spilt on clothing, the spill should be blotted dry with kitchen paper. Clothing should be removed immediately and washed separately from other items. Used kitchen paper should be disposed of as above.
- If you accidentally spill the tablets or mixture on the work surface or floor, wearing gloves, cover the spillage with kitchen paper. Wipe the area with water then clean with household cleaner and water.
- Used paper towels, masks, vomit and dirty disposable nappies should be placed

inside two rubbish bags and disposed of along with your normal rubbish.

If any type of spillage occurs you should contact GOSH for advice immediately.

Important

- Keep all medicines in a safe place where children cannot reach them.
- Tioguanine tablets or liquid should be kept in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight or heat.
- You should handle these medicines with care, avoiding touching them where possible. If you are pregnant or think you could be pregnant, please discuss handling instructions with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist. Please see our Special handling requirements information sheet for further details.
- If your child is taking tioguanine liquid, it can only be used for eight weeks once opened. Write the date you opened the bottle on the label to remind you.
- If your child vomits after taking the dose, inform the doctor or nurse. Do not give them another dose.
- If you forget to give your child their dose, do not give them a double dose. Inform your doctor or nurse and keep to your child's regular dose schedule.
- Sometimes it is necessary to halve tablets to get the correct dose. A tablet cutter may be used for this but you should keep it only for cutting chemotherapy tablets.
- If your doctor decides to stop treatment with tioguanine or the medicine passes its expiry date, return any remaining medicine to the pharmacist. Do not flush it down the toilet or throw it away.



Useful numbers

- GOSH switchboard 020 7405 9200
- Pharmacy medicines information 020 7829 8608 (Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm)

Disclaimer

Please read this information sheet from GOSH alongside the patient information leaflet (PIL) provided by the manufacturer. If you do not have a copy of the manufacturer's patient information leaflet please talk to your pharmacist. A few products do not have a marketing authorisation (licence) as a medicine and therefore there is no PIL.

For children in particular, there may be conflicts of information between the manufacturer's patient information leaflet (PIL) and guidance provided by GOSH and other healthcare providers. For example, some manufacturers may recommend, in the patient information leaflet, that a medicine is not given to children aged under 12 years. In most cases, this is because the manufacturer will recruit adults to clinical trials in the first instance and therefore the initial marketing authorisation (licence) only covers adults and older children.

For new medicines, the manufacturer then has to recruit children and newborns into trials (unless the medicine is not going to be used in children and newborns) and subsequently amend the PIL with the approved information. Older medicines may have been used effectively for many years in children without problems but the manufacturer has not been required to collect data and amend the licence. This does not mean that it is unsafe for children and young people to be prescribed such a medicine 'off-licence/off-label'. However, if you are concerned about any conflicts of information, please discuss with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

