



Carmustine (BCNU, BiCNU®)

Drug Name: BCNU, BiCNU®

Generic Name: carmustine

Purpose: Carmustine is a chemotherapy drug used to treat certain types of cancer. It interferes with cell reproduction and growth to prevent the cancer from growing or spreading. Carmustine can also be used to treat cancer cells that may have spread to the brain.

How drug is given:

- Intravenous (IV) into a vein by a specially trained nurse at the hospital or Cancer Center.

Possible Side Effects:

- Nausea and vomiting. Medications are available to help prevent or control the nausea.
- While you are receiving Carmustine intravenously, you may experience:
 - Pain or burning at the infusion site
 - Headache
 - Flushing (redness) of your face**Tell your doctor or nurse immediately if any of these occur!**
- Low white blood cell count. Call your doctor if you have:
 - fever
 - new cough
- Low red blood cell count. Call your doctor if you feel:
 - dizzy
 - short of breath
 - very tired
- Low platelet count. Call your doctor if you have:
 - bleeding
 - new bruises
 - tiny red spots on skin
- Temporary hair loss starting approximately 2 weeks after treatment. Your hair will grow back.
- Tell your doctor or nurse if you notice:
 - Yellowing of the whites of your eyes
 - Darkening of your urine
 - Changes in skin tone
- You may develop scarring of the lung tissue. Tell your doctor if you have:
 - dry cough
 - shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
 - chest pain



Important:

1. Carmustine can interact with other medications such as cimetidine (Tagamet®), digoxin (Lanoxin®), phenytoin (Dilantin®), aspirin. Talk to your doctor if you are taking these medications.
2. Carmustine can affect the brain by crossing the blood-brain barrier. The blood-brain barrier usually prevents medications in the blood from entering the brain. Tell your nurse or doctor if you have a headache, feel warm in your face or feel lightheaded or dizzy during your infusion of Carmustine.
3. Talk about contraception (birth control) and/or family planning with your doctor while taking carmustine.