

DOSAGE AND ROUTES

• **Adult/child >45 kg:** SUBCUT 6 mg per chemotherapy cycle

Available forms: Sol for inj 6 mg/0.6 mL

Administer:**SUBCUT route**

- Using single-use vials; after dose is withdrawn, do not reenter vial
- Do not use 6-mg fixed dose in infants, children, or others <45 kg
- Inspect sol for discoloration, particulates; if present, do not use
- Do not administer during the period 14 days before and 24 hr after cytotoxic chemotherapy
- Store in refrigerator; do not freeze; may store at room temperature up to 6 hr; avoid shaking, protect from light

SIDE EFFECTS

CNS: Fever, fatigue, headache, dizziness, insomnia, peripheral edema

GI: Splenic rupture

HEMA: Leukocytosis

INTEG: Alopecia

MISC: Chest pain, hyperuricemia, anaphylaxis, capillary leak syndrome

GU: Glomerulonephritis

MS: Skeletal pain

RESP: Respiratory distress syndrome

PHARMACOKINETICS

Half-life: 15-80 hr; 20-38 hr (children)

INTERACTIONS

• Do not use product concomitantly, 2 wk before, or 24 hr after administration of cytotoxic chemotherapy

Increase: release of neutrophils—lithium

Drug/Lab Test

Increase: uric acid, LDH, alk phos

NURSING CONSIDERATIONS**Assess:**

- **Allergic reactions, anaphylaxis:** rash, urticaria; discontinue product, have emergency equipment nearby
- **ARDS:** dyspnea, fever, tachypnea, occasionally confusion; obtain ABGs, chest x-ray; product may need to be discontinued
- **Bone pain:** give mild analgesics

• Blood studies: CBC with differential, platelet count before treatment, 2× weekly; neutrophil counts may be increased for 2 days after therapy

• B/P, respirations, pulse before and during therapy

• **Pregnancy/breastfeeding:** use only if benefits outweigh fetal risk; pregnant women should enroll in Amgen's Pregnancy Surveillance Program, 1-800-772-6436; cautious use in breastfeeding, excretion unknown

Evaluate:

• Therapeutic response: absence of infection

Teach patient/family:

• How to perform the technique for self-administration if product to be given at home: dose, side effects, disposal of containers and needles; provide instruction sheet

• To notify prescriber immediately of allergic reaction, trouble breathing, abdominal pain

⚠ HIGH ALERT**peginterferon alfa-2a (Rx)**

(peg-in-ter-feer'on)

Pegasys

peginterferon alfa-2b (Rx)

Pegintron, Sylatron

Func. class.: Immunomodulator

ACTION: Stimulates genes to modulate many biologic effects, including the inhibition of viral replication; inhibits ion cell proliferation, immunomodulation; stimulates effector proteins; decreases leukocyte, platelet counts

USES: Chronic hepatitis C infections in adults with compensated liver disease; chronic hepatitis B in adults who are HBe AG positive, HBe AG negative; HCV patients coinfecting with HIV;