

## Palifermin (Kepivance®)

### What is Palifermin?

Palifermin is used to protect patients from mucositis (painful mouth sores or ulcers). Palifermin works by speeding up the growth of cells that line the mouth to replace those damaged by chemotherapy in patients with cancer of the blood.

### How will I receive Palifermin?

Palifermin is given as an injection into your vein (Intravenous).

### What are the common side effects?

Please see, “Managing Symptoms at Home”, in the manual and refer to the Symptom Management section.

What You May Expect?	What Should You Do?
<p><b><i>Rash or red, itchy skin</i></b> Your doctor may prescribe a topical cream to apply several times a day.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep the area clean to avoid infection.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Fluid retention</i></b> may occur. Signs of extra fluid build-up are swelling of the feet, hands, or stomach; breathing problems, or weight gain.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elevate your feet when sitting.</li> <li>• Tell you nurse or doctor.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Muscle or joint pain</i></b> may occur.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell your nurse or doctor about your symptoms.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Taste alterations</i></b> may occur.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may notice food tastes differently.</li> <li>• You may experience swelling of your tongue. These side effects are not permanent.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Uncomfortable or unusual sensations</i></b> in or around your mouth (dysesthesia).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell your nurse or doctor about your symptoms.</li> </ul>

**These are the most common side effects. Others may occur. Please report any problems to your doctor, pharmacist, or nurse.**

### Call and Seek Help Immediately If You Have:

- Signs of an infection such as fever, chills, cough, pain.
- Signs of new pain, tenderness, or sudden cramping or bloating in your abdomen.

### Contact Your Nurse or Doctor If You Have:

- Pain, itching, rash, swelling or discoloration of your tongue, tingly or burning sensation in or around your mouth, or alteration in taste perception.

## **Special Instructions**

Use birth control when being treated by Palifermin. Tell your physician right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Avoid breastfeeding during treatment. Talk to your physician or nurse about any additional questions you may have.

## **Drug-Drug Interactions**

Your physician will not be giving Palifermin within 24 hours before or after receiving high-dose chemotherapy. This could increase your risk of getting severe and prolonged mouth sores and ulcers from Palifermin.

## **Drug-Food Interactions**

None known at this time.

For more complete information please request an additional teaching sheet from the National Library of Medicine at [www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginformation.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginformation.html) , your nurse, or visit the Resource Center.

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