



Treatment & medication

Asparaginase

Other names: L-asparaginase, Erwinase® (crisantaspase), Spectrila® (colaspase), Oncospar® (pegaspargase)

What is it and how does it work?

An enzyme that inhibits cell division (cytostatic drug).

What does it look like and how is it given?

A clear liquid that is administered as an infusion into a vein (intravenous), over 1 to 2 hours (depending on the protocol).

Short-term side effects (within 24 hours)

- Nausea and vomiting
- General malaise (fever, headache)
- Hypersensitivity reactions within 1 hour (shivering, fever, coughing, shortness of breath, redness of the skin, itching, decreased blood pressure)

Long-term side effects

- Disrupted production of (clotting) proteins
- Diabetes (temporary)
- Abnormal liver functions and inflammation of the pancreas
- Shivering, fever, and fatigue
- Neurological disorders (e.g. confusion)

Special instructions

- The nurse will check the blood pressure regularly during and after the treatment.
- Warn the doctor or nurse immediately if you notice your child experiences any of the hypersensitivity reactions listed above.
- Warn the doctor or nurse if your child complains about abdominal pain (when at home).

Specifics

Blood will be sampled regularly to check how the liver and pancreas are working.

This card lists the most common side effects and specifics of this medicine. If you want a complete list, please ask the doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.