

Temsirolimus

Brand Name: Torisel®

Category: Chemotherapy

Classification: Inhibitor of the mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR)

What is this medicine used for?

Temsirolimus is used to treat advanced renal cell cancer

How does this medicine work?

Temsirolimus kills cancer cells by attaching to certain receptors and inhibiting a set of enzymes known as mTOR. Some normal cells may also be affected by this medication.

How is this medicine given?

Temsirolimus is given once weekly by intravenous administration over 30-60 minutes

Remember:

You should read and understand the following information. If you have any questions or concerns, check with your doctor, pharmacist, or nurse.

- Before taking this medication, please tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medications, including over-the-counter medications, vitamins, and herbals. Always talk to your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new medications or over-the-counter products.
- Inform your doctor if you are pregnant, breast feeding, or planning to have children

Precautions:

Remember to tell all other doctors, dentists, and pharmacists that you are taking this medication.

Check with your doctor before receiving any immunizations (vaccinations). Try to avoid contact with people who have recently taken the oral polio vaccine.

Temsirolimus can lower your blood counts (white blood cells, red blood cells, and platelets). Your doctor will check your blood counts before each treatment and also after your treatment.

Temsirolimus can decrease your white blood cell count. This can increase your risk of getting an infection. Call your doctor if you develop a fever of 100.5°F or higher. You should also let your doctor know if you begin coughing, bringing up sputum, or experiencing pain on passing urine.

Temsirolimus can decrease your platelet count. This can increase your risk of bleeding. Avoid taking aspirin or medicines that contain aspirin. Report any unusual bruising (tiny purple rashes

on your skin called petechiae) or bleeding (nose bleeds, bleeding of your gums when you brush your teeth, or black tarry stools).

Temsirolimus can cause allergic reactions (fever and chills). Rarely, decreased blood pressure, swelling of face, and coughing can occur. You may be given other medicines before the temsirolimus to help you tolerate the drug better. Tell your nurse right away if you get a fever or chills, hives, nausea, itching, headache, shortness of breath, or swollen tongue or throat during your treatment. Your nurse will stop the infusion and evaluate you. Tell your doctor or nurse if you have an allergy to sirolimus or polysorbate 80.

Temsirolimus can cause an increase in your blood glucose (also called hyperglycemia). Your doctor will monitor your blood glucose during your therapy. Please tell your doctor if you experience an increase in thirst or frequency of urination.

Temsirolimus can affect your ability to heal wounds. This medication, rarely, can cause tears in your stomach and bowels (also called the gastrointestinal tract or GI tract). In patients who have tumors in their brain or central nervous system, temsirolimus can increase the risk of intracranial bleeding. Tell all healthcare professionals that you are taking temsirolimus before any procedure.

What are some possible side effects?

More Common Side Effects:

Rash	Swelling
Nausea	Loss of appetite
Increased blood glucose	Increased cholesterol
Mouth soreness	Fatigue
Decreased white blood cell count (increases your risk of infection)	
Decreased platelet count (increases your risk of bleeding)	
Increased liver function blood tests	
Kidney damage	

Less Common Side Effects:

Allergic reaction: increased heart rate, wheezing, swelling of face
High blood pressure

Rare Side Effects:

Bleeding from your stomach or bowels
Lung damage

Remember to report any problems to your doctor.

Tell your doctor, pharmacist, or nurse if you are experiencing any of the following: an increase in thirst or frequency of urination, new or worsening breathing difficulties, new or worsening abdominal pain, or blood in your stool.