

CEREBUDINE® (Daunorubicin Hydrochloride for Injection)

Bedford Laboratories, the major supplier of Daunorubicin, put all inventory distribution on hold in July 2012, pending a manufacturing-related investigation. There is no estimate of a release date.¹

Teva, which usually supplies Daunorubicin in Canadian markets, has the drug on suspended back-order due to unspecified manufacturing issues with no estimated release date.²

Neither Teva nor Bedford laboratories have provided advice for managing patients impacted by the shortage. There are no direct substitutions for Daunorubicin available.

Therefore, it would be prudent to follow basic drug shortage guidelines:

- Existing daunorubicin stock only used to continue treatments that have already been initiated.
- No new patients should be initiated on daunorubicin treatment, until further notice.

Official Indications³:

- Acute lymphoid leukemia, for remission induction, in combination with other anticancer agents
- Acute myeloid leukemia, for remission induction, in combination with other anticancer agents
- Ewing's sarcoma
- Non-hodgkin's lymphoma

Treatment Alternatives¹:

- No single agent can be substituted for Daunorubicin
- Doxorubicin, daunorubicin, zorubicin, and mitoxantrone appear to produce similar results for **leukemia induction therapy** (but has similar cardio-toxicity). Mitoxantrone is available direct from Pharmaceutical Partners of Canada (PPC) for hospitals only.^{4,5}
- An alternate agent based on a patient's renal and liver function, and the neoplasm type and location must be chosen
- A hematology or oncology specialist consult may be appropriate

References:

1. American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Drug Shortages. Available at <http://www.ashp.org/drugshortages/current/bulletin.aspx?id=680>. August 2012.
2. Personal communication, Teva Canada Medical Information, August 2012 – 1-800-268-41293.
3. Cerebudine [Manufacturer Monograph]. Available at http://www.bidocs.com/renetnt:/Prescribing+Information/PIs/Ben+Venue_Bedford+Labs/55390-108-01+DNOP_AQ+20mg/5539010801?DMW_FORMAT=pdf. Accessed August 22, 2012
4. UpToDate/Induction therapy for acute myeloid leukemia in younger adults, Accessed Aug 22, 2012.

5. Personal communication, Pharmaceutical Partners of Canada, August 2012, 1-877-821-7724

Compiled by Terry Damm, Drug Information Consultant
Saskatchewan Drug Information Service
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