

Dacarbazine for Injection

Hospira, the sole-supplier of dacarbazine in Canada, has cited a shortage of dacarbazine due to unspecified manufacturing delays.^{1,2}

However, as of August 23rd, Hospira has regained supply and is accepting orders.²

Though there is now some supply of dacarbazine, it may be prudent to follow basic drug shortage guidelines until supply is guaranteed:

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

Indications³

- Dacarbazine for Injection is indicated in the treatment of metastatic malignant melanoma
- Dacarbazine for Injection is also indicated for Hodgkin's disease as a second-line therapy when used in combination with other effective agents.

Treatment Alternatives¹

- No single agent can be substituted for Dacarbazine
- 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, Hospira Pharmaceuticals, August 2012, 1-866-488-6088 ext 2564
3. Dacarbazine [Manufacturer monograph]. Available at <http://www.hospira.com/docs/Dacarbazine-483050-PROMOWEB.pdf>. Accessed August 22, 2012

Compiled by Terry Damm, Drug Information Consultant
Saskatchewan Drug Information Service
August 2012