

# How to administer oral Temozolomide at home

Temozolomide is a chemotherapy medicine, which is used to treat certain types of cancer.

It is given by mouth in capsule form. Your child may be given a combination of capsules in order to get the correct dose. Temozolomide should be taken once a day one hour before breakfast on an empty stomach with plenty of water. Your nurse or doctor will confirm when and how to take this medicine.

## Common side effects

Refer to the 'Common Chemotherapy Drugs' table in the **GREEN** section for side effects.

## Important information for the safe administration of your child's chemotherapy

- Keep all medicines in a safe place where children cannot reach them.
- If prescribed, give a dose of anti-sickness medicine 30 minutes before each dose of Temozolomide.
- Temozolomide capsules should be kept in their original container in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight or heat.
- You should handle oral chemotherapy drugs with care and avoid touching them. If you prefer you can wear a pair of household rubber gloves to protect yourself. Do not use these gloves for any other purpose.
- Medicines should always be taken as directed by your doctor.
- If you forget to give your child a dose, do not give them a double dose. Inform your nurse or doctor and keep to your child's regular dose schedule.
- If your child vomits after taking their dose, do not repeat the dose. Seek advice from your local hospital.
- Dispose of paper towels or vomit soiled waste in a separate rubbish bag and place in your normal rubbish.
- Please return any unused capsules to your local hospital for disposal.

### How to give Temozolomide capsules

- Capsules should be swallowed whole.
- Ask your child to rest one at the back of his or her mouth.
- Give your child a drink.
- The capsule(s) should be swallowed along with the drink. It can help to look up while swallowing.
- If your child vomits after taking the dose, inform the doctor or nurse. Do not give them another dose.

### How to give Temozolomide if your child cannot swallow capsules

**If your child cannot swallow the Temozolomide capsules, they can take them with food as follows. You will need:**

- Temozolomide capsules
- Gloves
- Kitchen towel
- Medicine cup, medicine spoon, oral syringe
- Fruit juice (not grapefruit) or apple purée
- Sharps bin.

**This procedure should be carried out on a clean, clear working surface in a quiet room with the door closed.**

- Put on your gloves.
- Place some kitchen towel on the work surface; place a medicine cup containing 30ml of fruit juice or 30g apple purée, a medicine spoon and an oral syringe on the kitchen towel.
- Check all the information on the medicine is correct for your child and that you understand the dose and the number of capsules to be given. For example, a dose of 160mg is made up of 1 x 100mg capsule and 3 x 20mg capsules.
- Open the medicine bottle and place the capsules for the required dose on the kitchen towel. If the Temozolomide looks different to usual DO NOT USE IT. Contact the ward or medicines information department at the hospital.
- Working over the medicine cup, hold the capsule by each end gently twisting and pulling the capsule open before emptying the contents into the medicine cup. Take care not to inhale any powder.

- Repeat the above step for each capsule.
- Carefully mix the powder into the juice using the oral syringe and then draw up all the liquid into the oral syringe.
- Place the syringe into the back of your child's mouth and slowly push the plunger. If preferred your child can drink the liquid directly from the medicine cup.
- If you are using apple purée mix the powder with the sauce thoroughly and feed it to your child using the medicine spoon.
- Add some more fruit juice or apple purée to the medicine cup and mix. Give to your child. Repeat if necessary to ensure the entire dose has been given.
- Wrap the empty capsules in the kitchen towel, seal in a plastic bag and put in the sharps bin.
- Return to hospital for disposal as cytotoxic waste after completion of each course.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water.
- Food should not be eaten until at least one hour after the Temozolomide dose.
- If you accidentally spill the mixture, wash the area thoroughly with plenty of water.
- If the mixture accidentally splashes into your eyes, wash with plenty of running water for at least ten minutes.
- If your child vomits after taking their dose, do not repeat the dose. Seek advice from your local hospital.
- Dispose of paper towels or vomit soiled waste in a separate bag and place in your normal rubbish.
- If the doctor decides to stop treatment, return any remaining capsules to the pharmacist. Do not flush or throw them away.

If at any time you are concerned about your child whilst they are taking this medicine please telephone the contact numbers on the contact sheet in your patient/parent held oncology record for advice from your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.