



DACARBAZINE

SYNONYMS	DIC, DTIC
BRAND NAME	DACARBAZINE DBL
DRUG CLASS	Cytotoxic cancer therapy, alkylating agent
AVAILABILITY	Vial contains 200 mg of dacarbazine. Also contains citric acid and mannitol. ¹
WARNING	Cytotoxic. Strict handling precautions are required. Check your local guidelines for handling of cytotoxic medicines and related waste.
pH	3–4 when reconstituted ¹
PREPARATION	In a cytotoxic drug safety cabinet: Reconstitute the vial with 19.7 mL of water for injections to make a concentration of 10 mg/mL. The solution is clear and colourless to pale yellow. ¹ For IV infusion – dilute the dose in 500 mL of a compatible fluid. ²
STABILITY	Store at 2 to 8 °C. Protect from light. Do not freeze. ¹ Reconstituted solutions: stable for 8 hours below 25 °C or 24 hours at 2 to 8 °C. Protect from light. ¹ Discard solutions that are pink or red. ³ Infusion solution: stable for 8 hours below 25 °C or 24 hours at 2 to 8 °C, protected from light. ⁴
ADMINISTRATION	
IM injection	Not recommended
SUBCUT injection	Not recommended
IV injection	Inject over 1 minute. Injection is painful. ¹
IV infusion	Preferred. Infuse over 60 minutes. ² Pain on infusion may be reduced by protecting the bag from light during the infusion to minimise photo-degradation of dacarbazine. ³ See SPECIAL NOTES
COMPATIBILITY	Glucose 5% ^{3,4} , sodium chloride 0.9% ⁴
INCOMPATIBILITY	Do not mix with other medicines
SPECIAL NOTES	Dacarbazine is an irritant; extravasation causes moderate complications e.g. stinging, aching, phlebitis. ⁵ Monitor the infusion site. If the infusion is painful, first confirm that there is no extravasation. Slow the infusion and run a concurrent infusion of 500 mL of sodium chloride 0.9%. Subsequent doses can be diluted in 1000 mL of a compatible fluid. ² Dacarbazine is highly emetogenic. ⁶ Check your local guidelines for premedication requirements.

1. Product information. Available from www.tga.gov.au. Accessed 26/10/2023.

2. Protocol. Hodgkin lymphoma (ABVD) [v6 March 2020]. eviQ [internet]. Sydney: Cancer Institute NSW. Available from www.eviq.org.au. Accessed 26/10/2023.

3. ASHP Injectable drug information 2021. Bethesda, MD: American Society of Health-System Pharmacists; 2021.

4. Medical information. DBL Dacarbazine for injection: stability after dilution [letter]. Pfizer Australia; 11/10/2023.

5. Clinical resource. Extravasation management [v5 July 2022]. eviQ [internet]. Sydney: Cancer Institute NSW. Available from www.eviq.org.au. Accessed 22/11/2022.

6. Clinical resource. Prevention of anti-cancer therapy induced nausea and vomiting [v5 May 2021]. eviQ [internet]. Sydney: Cancer Institute NSW. Available from www.eviq.org.au. Accessed 22/11/2022.

REFERENCES