



## Phenylbutyrate

At the Clinical Center referred to as *Phenylbutyrate (Fen-l-byu-ter-ate)*.

- How Given:** Intravenously (by vein)
- Drug Action:** Phenylbutyrate is found in small amounts in the body. In larger amounts, it can slow or stop the growth of cancer cells.
- Side Effects:**
1. Dizziness, drowsiness, and possible daytime sleepiness (somnolence) may occur. These symptoms will resolve when the drug is stopped.
  2. Nausea and vomiting can occur.
  3. Anemia can occur.
  4. Swelling of hands and feet can occur.
  5. Headaches can occur.
- Special Instructions:**
1. Do not take any prescription or over-the-counter medications without talking to your NIH doctor. These include vitamins; herbal treatments; nose drops; or cold, flu, fever, headache, pain, hay fever or allergy medications.
  2. Do not drive a car, operate machinery, or perform activities requiring mental alertness until you know your reaction to this drug.
  3. Take anti-nausea medication on a schedule as directed even if you are not having nausea.
  4. Call your NIH doctor or nurse if you
    - have swelling in your hands and feet
    - have drowsiness during the daytime that makes it difficult to do your usual activities
    - are unable to drink for more than 1 day or unable to eat for more than 2 days



This information is prepared specifically for patients participating in clinical research at the Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center at the National Institutes of Health and is not necessarily applicable to individuals who are patients elsewhere. If you have questions about the information presented here, talk to a member of your healthcare team.

Living with Cancer Chemotherapy Series  
January, 1983; draft September, 1998  
National Institutes of Health, CC  
Nursing Department

Questions about the Clinical Center? [OCCC@cc.nih.gov](mailto:OCCC@cc.nih.gov)