This factsheet provides information on the use of chlorambucil in children and young people with cancer. Please read this factsheet carefully alongside any patient information provided by the manufacturer. Keep it somewhere safe so you can read it again.

For most medicines, information is provided by the manufacturer in the medicine package. However, this does not always tell you everything you need to know about the use of this medicine in children and young people. We have written this factsheet to give you some extra information.

**What is chlorambucil?**
Chlorambucil is a chemotherapy medicine used in the treatment of certain types of cancers and leukaemia.

**What preparations of chlorambucil are available?**
Chlorambucil is available as 2mg tablets.

**Where can I get chlorambucil from?**
Chlorambucil must only be obtained from the hospital at which you/your child is being treated. Please remember to bring all medication with you at each hospital visit.

**How is chlorambucil given?**
By mouth, once a day. Chlorambucil must not be given with food, give at least 1 hour before food or 3 hours after food. Instructions will be on the label or on the patient dosing information chart.

The tablets should be swallowed whole with plenty of water or juice. Do not break, crush or chew the tablets.

If your child is having nasogastric feeds (NG feeds), then the administration of chlorambucil can be timed around their feeds. The nursing team or pharmacist at your hospital will be able to advise you on this.

**Are there any possible side effects?**
It is important to remember that everyone reacts differently to chemotherapy. Some patients will have very few side effects whilst others will have more. The side effects listed below will not affect everyone who is given chlorambucil and may be different if more than one chemotherapy drug is given.
What are the common side effects?

Reduced bone marrow function
Blood counts will be checked regularly to see how the bone marrow is working. A low neutrophil count can make you/your child more at risk of infection. A low haemoglobin count indicates anaemia which may make you/your child unusually tired and a low platelet count may cause bruising or bleeding.

Please contact the hospital at which you/your child is being treated if there are signs of any infection, especially a high temperature or if they show signs of unusual tiredness, bruising or bleeding.

What are the less common side effects?

Nausea (feeling sick) and vomiting (being sick)
Anti-sickness medicines can be given to reduce or prevent these symptoms. Please contact the hospital at which you/your child is being treated if sickness is not controlled.

Diarrhoea
If diarrhoea is severe or continuous, contact the hospital at which you/your child is being treated for advice.

Skin rashes
Chlorambucil can cause a rash which may be itchy. If this happens contact the hospital at which you/your child is being treated for advice.

Sensitivity of the skin to sunlight
The skin may burn more easily than usual while taking chlorambucil. Exposure to sunlight and other forms of ultraviolet light should be avoided. Always use a good sun block of SPF 50 or higher and wear a sun hat.

Mouth ulcers
If the mouth becomes sore or small ulcers develop, contact the hospital at which you/your child is being treated for advice. Always follow the advice from your hospital on how to take good care of your/your child’s mouth before and during treatment.

Changes in lung tissue
In some cases chlorambucil may affect lung tissue. This risk increases with longer treatment and higher doses. This will be monitored carefully throughout treatment. The dose of chlorambucil will be carefully calculated to minimise the risk of any changes.

Extra care is taken for anyone with impaired lung function and those who have had lung or chest radiotherapy. If a cough or shortness of breath develops, please contact the hospital at which you/your child is being treated for advice.

Fertility
Depending on the combination of medicines and the dose that is given, fertility may be affected. If you would like to know more information, please discuss this with your consultant.

Second cancers
If chlorambucil is given for a long time there is a very small risk of developing a second cancer after many years. If you would like more information, please discuss this with your consultant.

Which tests/investigations may take place before, during or after treatment with chlorambucil?

Full blood count
A full blood count will be done regularly at your hospital, shared care centre or by your community team. The dose of chlorambucil may need to be adjusted according to the result. The new dose will be recorded on the label or on the patient dosing information chart.

Lung function tests
Tests to show how the lungs are working will be done before and during treatment.

How should the medicine be handled and stored?

- Keep in a safe place out of reach and sight of children
- Store tablets in a fridge
- Keep out of direct sunlight
- Always handle these medicines with care. Handle as little as possible and always wear gloves.
- If you are pregnant or think you could be pregnant, please discuss handling instructions with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist

Please read our factsheet on ‘Safe handling of chemotherapy medicines’
Is there anything else I should know about or do?
Contact the hospital at which you/your child is being treated if:
• A dose of chlorambucil is forgotten
• Vomiting occurs after taking the dose
• Too much chlorambucil is given

Does chlorambucil interact with any other medicines?
Some medicines can affect how well chlorambucil works. Always tell the prescriber about any other medication that is being taken. Make sure and check with the doctor or pharmacist before taking any other medicines. This includes supplements, herbal and complementary medicines.

If you have any questions about chlorambucil, please contact the hospital at which you/your child is being treated. This leaflet only gives general information.
You must always discuss individual treatment with the appropriate member of staff. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about treatment. Further information is available on the following websites. This information may not include advice on use in children or young people.
• xpil.medicines.org.uk  • www.macmillan.org.uk

Important contact numbers:

Any chlorambucil that has not been given, or is out of date, must be returned to the hospital at which you/your child is being treated.

Do not throw away at home.
Children’s Cancer and Leukaemia Group is a leading children’s cancer charity and the UK and Ireland’s professional association for those involved in the treatment and care of children with cancer. Each week in the UK and Ireland, more than 30 children are diagnosed. Two out of ten children will not survive their disease.

We bring together childhood cancer professionals to ensure all children receive the best possible treatment and care. We fund and support research into childhood cancers, and we help young patients and their families with our expert, high quality and award-winning information resources.

Children’s Cancer and Leukaemia Group
University of Leicester
Clinical Sciences Building
Leicester Royal Infirmary
Leicester LE2 7LX

Registered charity number 286669

0116 252 5858
info@cclg.org.uk
www.cclg.org.uk
Facebook: ChildrensCLG
Twitter: CCLG_UK

This factsheet was written by Judith Delaney (formerly Lead Pharmacist at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London and past Chair of the CCLG Pharmacy Group) and Anna Kinsella (Advanced Clinical Pharmacist in Paediatrics at Leeds General Infirmary) in conjunction with the CCLG Publications Committee, comprising multiprofessional experts in the field of children’s cancer.

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Publication of this factsheet was funded by CCLG.

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Published by CCLG December 2016
Next review date: December 2019