

Mepact: a chance to leave osteosarcoma in the past

Having bone cancer is probably one of the most difficult things your Mepact patients will ever go through. They will likely be experiencing a whole range of emotions and as such may have some questions for you about their Mepact treatment. This leaflet is designed to support you in answering some common questions.

- What is Mepact?
- What does Mepact do and how does it work?
- Why do I need another treatment?
- When will I receive Mepact and for how long?
- Will I have any side effects?

Prescribing information

Local PI to be added in accordance with local laws and regulations

References

1. Mepact Summary of Product Characteristics
2. Meyers PA & Gorlick R. *Osteosarcoma. Pediatr Clin North Am* 1997; 44:973-989.
3. Meyers PA, Schwartz CL, Krailo MK, et al. *J Clin Oncol.* 2005;23:2004-2011.
4. Meyers PA, et al. *J Clin Oncol* 2008;26:633-638.
5. Mepact Patient Information Leaflet. Available at: <http://www.medicines.org.uk/EMC/searchresults.aspx?term=MEPACT&searchtype=>. [Accessed: February 2016].

Job code: GLO/MEP/2016-00001c
Date of preparation: February 2016





Answering your patients' questions

What is Mepact?

Mepact is a medicine that is used to treat bone cancer in children, adolescents and young adults.

Mepact contains a special substance that stimulates the immune system to help the body kill cancer cells that have spread to the lungs.^{1,2}

Why do I need another treatment?

The doctor believes that the addition of Mepact to chemotherapy may make a big difference to how effective your treatment will be and may help reduce the risk of the cancer coming back.^{3,4}

When is Mepact given and will it hurt?

Mepact will be given to you in hospital on the same day as your chemotherapy.⁵ It is given intravenously so it may hurt a little when the needle pierces the skin but the pain will fade away, as with any injection.^{1,5}

It will take about one hour and someone will stay with you during that time.^{1,5}

How long will I need to have Mepact for?

You will need to receive Mepact twice a week for the first 12 weeks, and then it will only be once a week for the next 24 weeks.^{1,5}

If your chemotherapy finishes before your Mepact treatment does, you will be able to receive your treatment as an outpatient, which means that you only need to come to the hospital at certain times.⁵

Will it make me feel unwell?

Like all medicines, Mepact can cause side effects, although not everybody will get them. Chills, fever and feeling sick and tired are the most common, but they are usually mild or moderate and do not last long.¹

If you are worried about any side effects or have a rash or any problems breathing then you can contact your doctor straight away.^{1,5}