SQ VELCADE°

VELCADE® is the first in a class of drugs called proteasome inhibitors.

- VELCADE® (bortezomib) is approved by the FDA (US Food and Drug Administration) for the treatment of multiple myeloma (MM) alone and in combination with other agents, both as an intravenous (IV) infusion and as a subcutaneous (SQ) injection.
- Velcade is available throughout the myeloma disease course.
- SQ Velcade is given on the same schedule and at the same dose as IV Velcade, but is given as an injection under the skin (commonly known as a "shot") in the doctor's office. Injections are given alternating between the thigh and the abdomen.

SQ and IV Velcade show equal efficacy in patients with relapsed MM.

SQ Velcade causes significantly less peripheral neuropathy than IV Velcade.

- SQ administration may be considered for MM patients who have pre-existing peripheral neuropathy (PN) or who are at risk of developing PN.
- SQ Velcade may have reduced GI side effects.
- SQ Velcade can be more cost effective, less timeconsuming, and more convenient than IV Velcade.

Approximately 6% of patients in clinical trials with SQ Velcade have had site reactions (itching, swelling, pain, and/or redness at the injection site). The median time for site reactions to resolve is 6 days.

Other side effects of SQ Velcade are the same as those for IV Velcade. See the IMF publication *Understanding VELCADE®* (bortezomib) for Injection for details.

As always, the IMF urges you to discuss all medical issues thoroughly with your doctor.

Ask your doctor if SQ bortezomib is appropriate for you.



INTERNATIONAL MYELOMA FOUNDATION

What is Multiple Myeloma?

- Multiple myeloma (MM) is a cancer of bone marrow plasma cells that attacks and destroys bone.
- In the US, there are approximately 100,000 patients with MM and over 20,000 new cases diagnosed each year. Despite this, there is a lack of public awareness about MM.
- MM represents 1% of all cancers and accounts for 2% of cancer deaths.
- Although the causes of MM are uncertain, exposure to pesticides, nuclear radiation, and petrochemicals are considered to be important factors.
- Although there is no known cure, MM is treatable and outcomes are constantly improving. The survival rate has doubled in the past decade.

The IMF Hotline is staffed by trained information specialists.

800.452.CURE (2873) in the US & Canada

818.487.7455



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myeloma.org

Improving Lives • Finding the Cure