

Aprepitant

Names	The generic drug name is aprepitant (ap-RE-pi-tant). The brand name is Emend®. There may be other names for this medication.
How is Aprepitant Administered?	This drug comes as a capsule to take by mouth. If you have a PEG tube, empty the contents of the Emend® capsule into water. Immediately administer the mixture via the feeding tube and then flush the tube with water to make sure you received all the medication.
Why am I Taking Aprepitant?	Aprepitant is used with other medications to help prevent nausea and vomiting that may occur after chemotherapy. It is also used alone to prevent nausea and vomiting caused by surgery.
How Does it Work?	<p>Cancer is a group of diseases in which abnormal cells divide without control. Unfortunately, the cells that line the digestive tract naturally reproduce quickly; so many people may have nausea and vomiting as a side effect of chemotherapy.</p> <p>Instead of working on the stomach, aprepitant works directly on the part of the brain that controls vomiting. It is usually given with other anti-emetic drugs that block the signals from the stomach to the vomiting center of the brain.</p>
What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin Aprepitant?	<p>Tell your doctor if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are allergic to aprepitant or any other medication• have or have ever had liver disease• are pregnant or breastfeeding <p>This drug may interact with other medications or cause harmful side effects. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about <u>all</u> prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal, or diet supplements that you are taking.</p>

What Are Some Possible Side Effects?

- Indigestion, belching, gas, hiccups, heartburn, loss of appetite, stomach discomfort
- Thirst, dry mouth
- Fatigue, weakness, headache, and/or dizziness
- Constipation

How Can I Manage These Side Effects?

- Rest often.
- Drink lots of water (2-3 liters/day) and eat fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. Check with your doctor before taking any laxative product.
- Eat frequent small meals or snacks. Avoid eating large, heavy meals; hot, spicy foods; and caffeine (cola, coffee, tea, or chocolate).
- For headaches, check with your doctor for the best pain reliever.

When Should I Call the Doctor?

Call your doctor immediately if you have:

- any sign of an allergic reaction: itching or hives, swelling in your face or hands, swelling or tingling in your mouth or throat, chest tightness, trouble breathing, dizziness, or palpitations

What Else Should I Know About Aprepitant?

- Aprepitant does not treat nausea or vomiting once they have started.
- Store this medication at room temperature in a tightly closed container to protect it from heat, high humidity, and bright light.
- Using warfarin together with aprepitant can decrease the effects of warfarin. Call your doctor right away if you have any signs of blood clots: leg or chest pain, shortness of breath, sudden loss of vision, or pain, redness or swelling in an extremity. You may need blood tests and a dose adjustment.
- This drug may make birth control pills less effective, and this effect can last 28 days after your last dose of aprepitant. Use an alternative or additional method of birth control.
- Do not breastfeed while taking this medication.
- If you would like more information, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.