

# Neupogen (filgrastim) basics

**Prevents infection during chemotherapy.** Neupogen (filgrastim) can lower your risk of infection during chemotherapy, but it can cause a significant amount of bone pain.

## What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
<b>Neupogen (filgrastim)</b> Drug effectiveness		[Blue gradient bar]			
<b>Possible side effects†</b>					
<b>Decreased platelets</b>		[Red gradient bar]			
<b>Nausea</b>	[Red gradient bar]				
<b>Fever</b>	[Red gradient bar]				
<b>Back pain</b>		[Red gradient bar]			
<b>Dizziness</b>	[Red gradient bar]				
<b>Bone pain</b>		[Red gradient bar]			

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

## Tips from pharmacists

- Neupogen (filgrastim) stimulates a certain type of white blood cell important in fighting infection.
- Neupogen (filgrastim) cannot be injected 24 hours before or 24 hours after you finish your cancer medicine treatment. If you are administering Neupogen (filgrastim) to yourself, ask your doctor about specific directions.
- Pain or redness in the area of injection is common. Let your doctor know if you notice a lump, swelling, or bruising that doesn't go away.
- Store Neupogen (filgrastim) in the refrigerator (not in the freezer), protect it from light, and don't shake it.
- For a more comfortable injection, leave the syringe at room temperature for 30 minutes before using it.
- Don't inject Neupogen (filgrastim) if it contains any particles, is discolored or foamy.

## Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Serious allergic reactions

Some people taking Neupogen (filgrastim) have had hypersensitivity reactions (severe rash, trouble breathing) and angioedema (life-threatening condition with swelling with or without hives). Most cases occur immediately, but can also happen days after you stop the medicine even if you were treated with anti-allergy medicine. If you notice these symptoms after your injection or days later, call your doctor and get medical care right away.

### Respiratory problems

Neupogen (filgrastim) can cause a serious breathing condition known as Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS). You'll need medical care right away if you have a fever, shortness of breath, fast rate of breathing or trouble breathing. Stop taking Neupogen (filgrastim) immediately if this occurs.

### Spleen problems

Although rare, Neupogen (filgrastim) can enlarge or rupture (break open) your spleen. A ruptured spleen is very serious and can cause death. Call your doctor and get medical care right away if you have pain in the upper left stomach area or in the shoulder.