

# Velcade (bortezomib) basics

**Treats mantle cell lymphoma and multiple myeloma.** Velcade (bortezomib) is a first-choice treatment for multiple myeloma and an effective option for mantle cell lymphoma. However, it frequently causes burning, tingling, and numbness in the hands and feet.

## 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>Velcade (bortezomib)</b> Drug effectiveness			▶		

## Tips from pharmacists

- Self-inject Velcade (bortezomib) into your thigh or abdomen according to the schedule your doctor told you. Make sure to inject in a different site with each dose (at least 1 inch away from a previous site) and don't inject into bruised, tender, red, or hard areas.
- Velcade (bortezomib) can cause dizziness and tiredness. Avoid driving and doing tasks that require you to be alert until you know how Velcade (bortezomib) affects you.
- If you are taking oral pills for diabetes, check your blood sugar often while taking Velcade (bortezomib), since it can cause changes in blood sugar.
- Contact your doctor if you experience new or worsening sensations of tingling, numbness, pain in the feet or hands.
- You can get dizzy and lightheaded from Velcade (bortezomib). Make sure to stay hydrated and get up slowly from lying down or sitting.
- Some drugs can interfere with how Velcade (bortezomib) works. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new medicines, including over the counter and supplements.

## Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Tingling or numbness in arms or legs

Velcade (bortezomib) causes tingling, numbness, pain, or burning sensation in your arms or legs. Be careful when moving around, as the numbness may make it harder to walk, feel your hands or feet, or increase your risk of falls. Talk to your doctor if you feel these symptoms. You may need to change your dose or schedule.

### Low blood pressure

In some cases, Velcade (bortezomib) causes low blood pressure. Make sure you stay hydrated while taking Velcade (bortezomib), and get up slowly from lying down or sitting. Talk to your doctor if you notice lightheaded or dizziness.

### Heart damage

Velcade (bortezomib) can cause or worsen heart failure and other heart problems. If you feel an irregular or fast heartbeat, bloating, frequent tiredness, shortness of breath, or swelling, talk to your doctor.