

Beth Faiman, RN, MSN, APRN-BC, AOCN®

Nurse Practitioner

Multiple Myeloma Program

Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Cleveland, Ohio

What are the most common side effects of carfilzomib?

Hello. My name is Beth Faiman. I am a nurse practitioner at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Cleveland, Ohio. I am commonly asked, "What are the most common side effects of carfilzomib to educate your patients?" Well, carfilzomib is a next-generation proteasome inhibitor. We currently have one proteasome inhibitor FDA-approved for the treatment of multiple myeloma. Carfilzomib most commonly causes myelosuppression, therefore it is important to regularly monitor blood counts. It seems to be safe in patients with renal dysfunction; however, patients should remain well hydrated while taking carfilzomib. It is also important to note that there is no increased incidence of peripheral neuropathy in patients who receive carfilzomib as seen in clinical trials. One important thing to note, though, is that our patients who receive carfilzomib may experience an increase in fatigue. The fatigue is mild to moderate, it is not severe, but it is something that we need to educate our patients on so that they can continue to put in place strategies to combat this side effect.