

## Lab Monitoring for 6-MP (Purinethol) and Azathioprine (Imuran)

The patient should get a green lab card that they can use to take to the lab and have their blood drawn. The blood draw schedule is as follows. The dates corresponding to the following schedule should be written down for the patient.

1. CBC once weekly for 4 weeks
2. CBC once every 2 weeks x 2
3. CBC once every month for 3 months
4. CBC once every 2 months x 3

Then, if the CBC values remain stable:

5. CBC every 3 months indefinitely.

Liver function tests are checked at the beginning of therapy and about twice per year thereafter. If values in the CBC or liver function tests are abnormal, the medication dose may have to be decreased, or it could be discontinued altogether.

Laboratory criteria for reduction or discontinuation of drug (these are general guidelines, and in all cases this should be discussed with the treating physician):

- a. WBC count  $< 1.5$  ANC  $< 750$ , Platelet count  $< 80,000$ , or Hemoglobin  $< 10$  g/dl skip 2 doses of medication then decrease to  $\frac{1}{2}$  dose and monitor CBC weekly. If CBC is stable for 3 weeks, medication levels should be checked.
- b. Discontinue completely if: hemoglobin  $< 8.5$ , WBC  $< 1.0$ , ANC  $< 500$ , or platelet count  $< 50,000$