**Cetuximab (Erbitux®)**
(“se TUK see mab”)

**How drug is given:** by vein (IV)

**Purpose:** To attack certain cancer cells in colorectal cancer, head and neck cancer, and other cancers.

**Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment**

1. Facial flushing (warmth or redness of the face), itching, or a skin rash could occur. These symptoms are due to an allergic response and should be reported to your doctor or nurse right away.

2. Mild to moderate nausea, vomiting, and loss of appetite may occur. You may be given medicine to help with this.

**Things that may occur a few days to weeks later**

1. Skin changes such as redness or a rash (sometimes looks like acne). This will most likely appear on your face, chest, or back. It may be dry, itchy, inflamed, and could become infected. There are products that you can use to help with this. Talk to your doctor or nurse. Stay out of the sun and do not use over-the-counter acne products.

2. You may see changes under your nails (nail beds), mostly the big toes and thumb. This includes redness, pain, swelling, and having the nail crack or lift from the nail bed. In some cases, it can be more severe. Talk to your doctor or nurse about what may help with this.

3. Some patients may feel very tired, also known as fatigue. You may need to rest or take naps more often. Mild to moderate exercise can also be helpful in maintaining your energy.

4. Loose stools or diarrhea may occur within 3 days after the drug is given. You may take loperamide (Imodium A-D®) to help control diarrhea. You may buy this at most drug stores. It is also important to drink more fluids (water, juice, sports drinks). If these do not help within 48 hours, tell your doctor or nurse.

5. Mild constipation may occur within 1 to 2 weeks after treatment begins. Please increase your fluid intake and increase fiber in your diet by eating fresh fruits and vegetables. A daily stool softener, such as docusate (Colace®) and/or laxatives such as senna (Senakot®), may be helpful.
If these do not help within 48 hours, tell your doctor or nurse. Do not use bulk forming laxatives such as Metamucil® without talking with your doctor or nurse.

6. If you develop a new or worsening cough or shortness of breath, report this to your doctor or nurse.

7. You may notice crusting around the eyes or your eyelashes may grow very long or the wrong way. Redness and tenderness of the eye may also occur. If this occurs, talk to your doctor or nurse.

8. You may get a headache. Please talk to your doctor or nurse about what you can take for this.

9. Fertility and Related Precautions
   • It is very important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug could be harmful to an unborn baby.
   • Women should not breast-feed while receiving this drug.
   • If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your doctor or nurse.

The above information includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects in this teaching sheet may not be the same ones you experience. Your side effects may be different, depending on how often you receive treatment (your schedule) and how much you receive each time (your dosage). Side effects may also vary if you take other medications. Please talk with your doctor or nurse if you have questions about possible side effects you may experience. This document should not take the place of conversations with members of your health care team.

If you experience any significant change in your health during or after treatment, contact a member of your health care team right away.

This space reserved for written comments or notes for the patient and family: