



Trastuzumab (Herceptin®) ("tras-TU-zoo-mab")

How drug is given: by vein (IV)

Purpose: medicine used to treat some breast cancers and gastric cancers

Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment

1. An allergic reaction may occur. Tell your doctor or nurse right away if you feel dizzy or have fever, chills, chest pain, trouble breathing, itching, or a rash. These symptoms are due to an allergic response and should be reported to your doctor or nurse right away.
2. During treatment, you may experience back pain or a backache. Tell your doctor or nurse if this pain becomes bothersome or interferes with any of your daily activities.

Things that may occur a few days to weeks later

1. Loose stools or diarrhea may occur within a few days after the drug is started. You may take loperamide (Imodium A-D®) to help control diarrhea. You can buy this at most drug stores. Be sure to also drink more fluids (water, juice, sports drinks). If these do not help within 24 hours, call your doctor or nurse.
2. Mild to moderate nausea, vomiting, and weight loss may occur. You may be given medicine to help.
3. You may feel pain or weakness in your joints or muscles. If these bother you, ask your doctor or nurse what type of drugs you may use to help.
4. You may get a headache. Please talk to your doctor or nurse about what you can take for this.
5. If you have an ongoing fever of 100.5 F (38C) or higher, make sure you are drinking plenty of fluids. If you become dizzy or lightheaded, call your doctor or nurse right away.
6. For some patients, this drug may affect the heart. Your heart function will be checked. You should let your doctor or nurse know if you are coughing, having trouble breathing, have chest pain, and/or have swelling in the feet or ankles.

7. 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 help maintain your energy.
8. Fertility and Related Precautions:
 - It is very important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug may 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: