



Bevacizumab (Avastin®) (“be-vuh-SIZ-uh-mab”)

How drug is given: by vein (IV)

Purpose: To help stop tumors from growing in colorectal cancer, non-small cell lung cancer, brain cancer, renal cell 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 cancer care team **right away**.
2. Some patients may have mild nausea. You may be given medicine to help with this.

Things that may occur a few days to weeks later

1. Your blood pressure may go up. If this happens, you may be given medication to help with this. If you have headaches or dizziness, let your cancer care team know right away.
2. 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 you maintain your energy.
3. You may feel pain or weakness in your joints or muscles. If these bother you, ask your cancer care team what type of drugs you may use to help with this pain.
4. You may be at increased risk for bleeding. Call your cancer care team if:
 - You see blood in your urine or stool
 - You feel dizzy or faint
 - You have a nosebleed that does not stop in 10-15 minutes.

If you have a nosebleed, sit with your head tipped slightly forward and apply pressure by lightly pinching the soft part of your nose between your thumb and forefinger for a full 10 minutes. Applying ice to the bridge of the nose can also help.

5. If you notice changes in eyesight, or have pain or redness in the eye, tell your cancer care team right away.
6. You may get a headache. Please talk to your doctor or nurse about what you can take for this.
7. Mild constipation may occur 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 cancer care team.
8. Your blood cell counts may drop. This is known as bone marrow suppression. This includes a decrease in your white blood cells, which fight infection in your body. This may happen 7 to 14 days after the drug is given and then blood counts should return to normal. If you have a **fever of 100.5°F (38°C) or higher**, chills, a cough, or any bleeding problems, tell your cancer care team **right away**.
9. Loose stools or diarrhea may occur 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, tell your cancer care team.
10. Loss of appetite may occur; this may lead to weight loss. Talk to your cancer care team if you have questions or concerns.
11. Mild to moderate nausea, vomiting, and loss of appetite may occur. You may be given medicine to help with this.
12. Wounds you have may heal more slowly than normal. If you notice changes in any surgical wounds, please talk to your cancer care team.
13. This drug may affect how your kidneys function. Your blood and urine will be tested. In most cases, your kidney will return to normal. It is **very important** that you drink plenty of fluids, especially for 2 to 3 days after treatment.
14. If you develop a new or worsening cough or shortness of breath, tell your cancer care team.
15. You are at increased risk of blood clots. If you have pain, swelling or and/or warmth in one leg, or if you develop sudden shortness of breath, tell your cancer care team **right away**.
16. Rarely, some people's risk of heart problems may become higher, including having a heart attack, heart failure or stroke. Call your doctor and go to the emergency room if you are having chest pain, feel short of breath, heart is racing, blurred or double vision, a very bad headache or sudden weakness.

Things that may occur after treatment ends (even months to years later)

- 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 breastfeed while receiving this drug.
 - If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your cancer care team.
- In rare cases, a special problem with the nerves called reversible posterior leukoencephalopathy syndrome (RPLS) may occur. Patients may have a headache, feel sleepy or confused, have a change in eyesight, seizures or other problems. This can happen 16 hours to 1 year after starting bevacizumab. This will usually get better or completely go away but some patients may continue to have some problems.

The above information includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects listed 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 are taking other medications. Please speak with your cancer care team if you have questions about possible side effects you may experience.

This document should not take the place of conversations with members of your cancer care team. If you experience any significant change in your health during or after treatment, contact a member of your cancer care team right away.

THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS OR NOTES FOR THE PATIENT AND FAMILY: