



## Brentuximab vedotin (Adcetris®)

("bren-TUX-i-mab ve-DOE-tin")

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

**Purpose:** to treat cancers such as Hodgkin lymphoma and other lymphomas

### 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 team **right away**.
2. You may have nausea, vomiting, and/or loss of appetite. Nausea and vomiting may begin soon after the drug is given and may last more than 24 hours. You may be given medicine to help with this.

### 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 cancer care team**.
2. 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 (Senokot®), may be helpful. If these do not help within 48 hours, tell your cancer care team. Do not use bulk forming laxatives such as Metamucil® without first talking with your cancer care team.
3. Your blood cell counts may drop 7 to 14 days after the drug is given. This is known as bone marrow suppression. This includes a decrease of:
  - Red blood cells, which carry oxygen in your body to help give you energy
  - White blood cells, which fight infection in your body
  - Platelets, which help clot the blood to stop bleeding

If you have a **fever of 100.5°F (38°C) or higher**, chills, a cough, or any bleeding problems, **call your cancer team right away**.

4. If you develop a new or worsening cough or shortness of breath, tell your cancer care team.

5. 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.
6. You may be at increased risk for infections. You may be given drugs to prevent infection and asked to continue them for 2 months following the end of treatment.
7. You may get a headache. Please talk to your cancer team about what you can take for this.
8. Some of your hair may thin and fall out with treatment.
9. You may feel pain or weakness in your joints or muscles. This may happen about 2 to 3 days after you get brentuximab. This usually gets better in less than a week. If these bother you, ask your cancer care team what type of drugs you may use to help with this pain.
10. Your body may not be able to get rid of extra fluid. This is called edema. You may notice some swelling in your arms or legs.
11. Skin changes, such as dryness, itching or a rash on your body, may occur. Ask your cancer team what lotions or creams you may use.
12. You may lose some feeling, or have tingling or burning in your hands and/or feet. This is called peripheral neuropathy. This may increase with continued treatment. Please tell your cancer care team if you have trouble buttoning your clothes. Peripheral neuropathy should get better over time when the drug is stopped. Take care when handling sharp objects, use handrails to avoid falls, and wear supportive shoes.

### **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.

*This document 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 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.*