



Ibritumomab Tiuxetan (Zevalin®)

(“EYE-bri-TOOM-oh-mab tye-UX-e-tan”)

How this drug is given: By vein (IV)

Purpose: To reduce cancer cells in non-Hodgkin lymphoma

Treatment Plan

1. The treatment takes several days to complete.
2. On day one, you will visit the infusion clinic to get rituximab over several hours.
3. After the rituximab, you *may* be given a form of ibritumomab tiuxetan (Indium-111) in the nuclear medicine department. This happens if your physician determines that imaging (**steps 3 to 5**) will be needed before the therapeutic portion of the ibritumomab tiuxetan*. Ibritumomab tiuxetan is given over the course of 30 minutes.

Most patients do not need the imaging portion of this treatment plan and can now skip to step 6.
If you are getting the imaging, you can continue on to **step 4**.

4. **About 2 to 24 hours after you get ibritumomab tiuxetan**, whole body images may be taken with a gamma camera.
5. **About 48 to 72 hours after ibritumomab tiuxetan**, additional images may be taken with the gamma camera. Your physician may take additional images on day 4 or 5. This is done to see how ibritumomab tiuxetan is distributed in the body.
6. **One week after the first rituximab treatment**, you will get a second rituximab dose, followed by Yttrium-90 ibritumomab tiuxetan, the therapeutic portion of the ibritumomab tiuxetan treatment. A nurse or technologist will stay with you during your treatment. No images are necessary after this infusion.
 - Radiation from Yttrium-90 ibritumomab tiuxetan does not penetrate outside the body, but **a small amount of radiation may be present (for about a week following the treatment) in body fluids such as urine and blood.**

For the safety of others

To lower radiation exposure to others, please do the following after the infusion of ibritumomab tiuxetan (described above, in step 6):

1. **Drink plenty of fluids** and **urinate as much as possible**. This is very important.
2. **Wash hands thoroughly** after you urinate.
3. **Use a condom** during sexual intercourse.
4. **Avoid deep kissing** (French kissing).
5. **Avoid sharing beverages and utensils** with others.

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 after you take ibritumomab tiuxetan. These symptoms are due to an allergic response and should be reported to your doctor or nurse **right away**.
2. If you get a severe rash on your body or in your mouth, please contact your doctor **immediately** for prompt medical attention.
3. Flu-like symptoms, such as fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, and/or joint aches are common. If these occur, your doctor may suggest taking acetaminophen (Tylenol®) to help control the symptoms. Please let your doctor or nurse know if acetaminophen is not effective, since other medications may be prescribed.

Things that may occur days to weeks later

1. 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.
2. Your blood cell counts may drop. This is known as bone marrow suppression. This includes a decrease in your:
 - 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

This may happen 2 to 4 weeks after the drug is given and usually reaches its lowest level at 3 to 7 weeks after the drug is given. If you have a **fever of 100.5°F (38°C) or higher**, chills, a cough, or any bleeding problems, **tell your doctor or nurse right away**.

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. Fertility and Related Precautions:

- It is still very important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug may be harmful to an unborn baby.
- Men may become sterile and may want to think about sperm banking prior to chemotherapy.
- For women, your period (menstrual cycle) may not be regular for a while or may stop completely and you may not be able to get pregnant.
- Women should not breastfeed while receiving this drug.

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 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 about your treatment and side effects you may experience during and after treatment.

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: