



## Panitumumab (Vectibix®)

(“pan-I-TOOM yoo-mab”)

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

**Purpose:** To treat certain cancer cells in colorectal cancer and other cancers.

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

- 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 (that may look like acne), may appear on your face, chest, or back. It may be itchy or inflamed and could become infected. If this occurs, talk with your cancer care team. There are treatments that may help. Stay out of the sun and do not use over-the-counter acne products.
2. You may experience abdominal pain. Tell your cancer care team if you have this pain.
3. 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 can buy this at most drug stores. Be sure to also drink more fluids (such as water, juice, or sports drinks). If these do not help within 24 hours, **call your cancer care team.**
4. 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.
5. You may see changes in your nails, 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 with your cancer care team about what may help with this.
6. Some patients may feel very tired, also known as fatigue. You may need to rest or take naps more often. Mild to moderate exercise may help you maintain your energy.
7. Eye changes may occur, such as eyelashes growing the wrong way or crusting. Redness and tenderness of the eye may occur less frequently. Using warm compresses and topical medicine may be helpful.

## 8. Fertility:

- It is very important to use birth control if you are having sex, and continue using protection at least 6 months after treatment, because this drug could harm an unborn baby.
- Men may become sterile and should consider 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.
- If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your cancer care team.

*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 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 cancer care team right away.*

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