



Ramucirumab (Cyramza®)

("ra-mue-SIR-ue-mab")

How drug is given: by vein (IV infusion)

Purpose: to treat cancer cells in gastric cancer, gastro-esophageal junction cancer, and other cancers

Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment

1. An allergic reaction may occur. **Tell your cancer care team right away** if you feel dizzy or have fever, chills, chest pain, trouble breathing, itching, or a rash. You will be given a drug before you start ramucirumab that will try to keep this from happening.
2. Your blood pressure may go up. If this happens, you may be given medication to help with this. If you have headaches or dizziness, **tell your cancer care team right away**.
3. Loose stools or diarrhea may occur after the drug is given. You may take loperamide (Imodium A-D®) to help control diarrhea. You can buy this at most drug stores. It is also important to drink more fluids (water, juice, sports drinks). If these do not help within 24 hours, **call your cancer care team**.
4. You may get a headache. Please talk to your cancer care team about what you can take for this.

Things that may occur a few days to weeks later

1. You may have an increased risk of bleeding. if you feel like you are about to pass out, you feel light-headed, or you have new or sudden dizziness.
2. Please **call your cancer care team right away** 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 lightly pinch the soft part of your nose between the thumb and forefinger for a full 10 minutes. Ice applied to the bridge of the nose may help.
3. Wounds may heal more slowly. If you notice changes in any surgical wounds, please talk with your cancer care team.

4. In rare cases, the risk of heart problems increases, including having a heart attack, heart failure, or stroke. Call your physician and go to the emergency room if you are having chest pain, feel short of breath, heart is racing, changes in eyesight, a very bad headache or major weakness.

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

- In rare cases, a special problem with nerves called *reversible posterior leukoencephalopathy syndrome* (RPLS) may occur. Patients may have a headache, nausea, feel sleepy or confused, have a change in eyesight, and have seizures or other problems. This can happen 16 hours to one year after starting ramucirumab. Early treatment can help, but delayed treatment can result in more permanent damage. Call your cancer care team if you have any of the symptoms noted above.
- Fertility and Related Precautions:
 - It is very important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug can 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 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.

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

If you experience any significant change in your health during or after treatment, contact a member of your cancer care team right away.