



Trastuzumab (Herceptin®) (“tras-TU-zoo-mab”)

How drug is given: by vein (IV)

Purpose: medicine used to treat some breast cancers and gastric 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. These symptoms usually occur during the infusion and should be reported to your doctor or nurse right away.
2. During treatment, you may experience back pain or a backache. Tell your cancer care team if this pain becomes bothersome or interferes with any of your daily activities.

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. Skin changes, such as dryness or a rash, may occur. Ask your cancer care team what lotions or creams you may use.
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.
4. You may get a headache. Please talk to your cancer care team about what you can take for this.
5. If you have an ongoing fever of 100.5 F (38C) or higher, make sure you are drinking plenty of fluids. If you feel dizzy or lightheaded, call your cancer care team right away.
6. Some people’s risk of heart problems may become higher, including having a heart attack, heart failure, or stroke. Call your physician and go to the emergency room if you have chest pain, shortness of breath, a racing heartbeat, changes in eyesight, a very bad headache, or major weakness.

7. 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.

The above information includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects 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 take other medications. Please talk 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: