Ziv-aflibercept (Zaltrap®)
(“ziv-a-FLIB-er-sept”)

How drug is given: by vein (IV)

Purpose: Used to treat certain types of colon cancer by slowing the cancer cell growth

Things that may occur a few days to weeks later

1. You may be at increased risk for bleeding. Call your cancer care team if:
   - You see blood in your urine or stool
   - You feel dizzy or faint
   - You have a nose bleed that does not stop in 10-15 minutes

   If you have a nose bleed, sit with your head tipped slightly forward and use your thumb and forefinger to apply pressure by lightly pinching the soft part of your nose for a full 10 minutes. Applying ice to the bridge of the nose can also help.

2. You may get a headache. Please talk to your cancer care team about what you can take for this.

3. Your blood pressure may go up. If this happens, you may be given medication to help with this. If you have headaches or dizziness, let your cancer care team know right away.

4. You are at increased risk of blood clots. If you have pain, swelling or and/or warmth in one leg, or if you develop sudden shortness of breath, tell your cancer care team right away.

5. 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, tell your cancer care team.

6. Your blood cell counts may drop. This is known as bone marrow suppression. This includes a decrease in your white blood cells, which fight infection in your body. This may happen 7 to 14 days after the drug is given. After that, blood counts should return to normal. If you have a fever of 100.5°F (38°C) or higher, chills, a cough, or any bleeding problems, tell your cancer care team right away.

7. 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.
8. Wounds you have may heal more slowly than normal. If you notice changes in any surgical wounds, please talk to your cancer care team.

9. This drug may affect how your kidneys function. Your blood and urine will be tested. In most cases, your kidney will return to normal. It is very important that you drink plenty of fluids, especially for 2 to 3 days after treatment.

10. You may get mouth sores 7 to 10 days after this drug is given. It is important to keep your mouth clean. A soft-bristle toothbrush should be used for brushing your teeth. You may have a burning feeling and redness inside the mouth or on the lips. Use a baking soda mouth rinse 4 or 5 times a day.

Mouth Rinse Recipe:
Mix: 1 tsp salt or baking soda with 8 oz. glass of water

Other mouth rinses may be ordered by your doctor. Do not use mouth washes that have alcohol in them, because they will dry out the mouth. If you cannot eat or swallow because of this, let your cancer care team know. Check with your doctor before having any dental work done.

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

12. Loss of appetite may occur; this may lead to weight loss. Talk to your cancer care team if you have questions or concerns.

13. Your liver may be affected by this drug. Your health care team may test a sample of blood to check your liver function.

14. 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 with this pain.

15. You voice may sound different, becoming hoarse, breathy, or rough.

16. 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 doctor or nurse.

17. In rare cases, a problem with the nerves called reversible posterior leukoencephalopathy syndrome (RPLS) may occur. You may have a headache, feel sleepy or confused, notice a change in eyesight or experience other problems like seizures. This can happen 16 hours to one year after starting ziv-aflibercept. This will usually get better or completely go away, but some patients may continue to have some problems.
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 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.

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: