



Chemotherapy: Ziv-aflibercept (Zaltrap®)

Pronounced: "ziv-a-FLIB-er-sept"

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

**Purpose:** Slows the growth of cancer cells in certain types of colon cancer and other cancers

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

- 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 nosebleed, sit with your head tipped slightly forward and use your thumb and forefinger lightly pinch the soft part of your nose for a full 10 minutes. Applying ice to the bridge of the nose can also help.

- You may get a headache. Please talk to your cancer care team about what you can take for this.
- 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.
- Loss of appetite may occur; this may lead to weight loss. Talk to your cancer care team if you have questions or concerns.
- 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.
- 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.**
- Your white blood cell count may drop. White blood cells fight infection. It usually *happens 7 to 14 days after the drug is given and then the 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, **call your cancer care team right away.**
- Wounds you have may heal more slowly than normal. If you notice changes in any surgical wounds, please talk to your cancer care team.
- 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.

- The palms of your hands or the soles of your feet may become red and painful. This is called hand-foot syndrome. Tingling and peeling of the skin may occur. Avoid hot water and tight-fitting shoes. Use thick (moisturizing) creams on hands and feet.
- If you develop a new or worsening cough or shortness of breath, tell your cancer care team.
- Your liver may be affected by this drug. Your health care team may test a sample of blood to check your liver function.
- Your kidneys could be hurt by this drug and not work as well. Your kidneys will be watched closely with blood and urine tests.
- 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.
- Your voice may sound different, become hoarse, breathy, or rough.
- 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 ziv-aflibercept. Call your cancer care team if you have any of these symptoms. Early treatment can help, but delayed treatment can result in more permanent damage.

### **Sexual health and fertility concerns**

- 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 information in this document includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects listed here 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.*

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