

Warning

This fact sheet aims to let you know the side effects most commonly seen following the administration of your treatment. Please note that when you take any medication, there is a possibility that it causes rare side effects and it is difficult to predict which patients will be affected.

General information for patient Trastuzumab emtansine (Kadcyla®)

Date: June 2016

Revision: September 2016

Medication	Administration
Trastuzumab emtansine	Intravenous infusion over 30 minutes, only if the first dose did not cause a reaction.*
	*First dose is always administered over 90 minutes
<i>Treatment repeated every 3 weeks</i>	

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General Information associated with your treatment

- › This medication is used to prevent the multiplication of abnormal cells and destroy them.
- › A **blood test** will be done prior to every cycle. Depending on the results and side effects of the previous treatment, the dose of the medication might be adjusted or the treatment might be delayed.
- › You may experience **fatigue** during your treatments. This is usually only temporary and may be related to different reasons (medication, stress, the disease). Maintain a good level of activity but rest when you feel the need to.
- › Your **appetite may diminish**. Eat more often, in smaller quantities.
- › Your **sense of taste may be altered**. Enhance foods with *fines herbes* or lemon juice. Eating fruits and non sugared candies, chewing non-sugared gums, etc., may mask the metallic taste.
- › **Alcohol** (in small quantities) is permitted and will not affect the efficacy of the treatments.
- › You can have an **active sexual** life during your treatments. Your partner will not be exposed to, nor harmed by chemotherapy effects. However, a decrease in your sexual drive may occur during this period. This may also be influenced by different factors (fatigue, stress etc.).
- › In **pre-menopausal female patients** chemotherapy may cause irregularities or cessation of the **menstrual cycle** during treatment. The menstrual cycle may restart or return to normal after the end of treatment. The menstrual cycle may also stop permanently. However, a pregnancy remains possible and chemotherapy administered during pregnancy may harm the embryo. Two simultaneous birth control methods are strongly recommended during treatment and up to 7 months after the end of treatment. Breastfeeding is contra-indicated during treatment.
- › For **male patients**, the sperm count may be affected and negative effects on the embryo may occur. In fact, the production of spermatozooids may be reduced or completely absent during treatments. In certain patients, this reduction of fertility may be permanent, may get better or return to normal after the treatments have stopped. This reduction of **fertility** does not prevent erection or sexual activity. A pregnancy remains possible. If you have sex with a woman of childbearing age it is strongly recommended to use a method of contraception during the treatment.
- › Consult your doctor or pharmacist before you take other medications (even over the counter medications available without a prescription) or **natural health products** or if you need to receive a **vaccine**. These may provoke an interaction with your treatment and diminish its efficacy or increase side effects.
- › Follow the instructions given by your cancer center about the right way to handle and dispose of biological fluids (for example urine, stools) in order to protect the environment and your relatives.
- › Be sure to always have on hand the complete list of your medications, dietary supplements, vitamins and other natural health products. Give it to your doctor and your pharmacist. It is important to make them aware of any change.

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Adverse effects and their management

Adverse effects	Management
Nausea , usually light, may occur mainly on the same day and the day following your treatment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Before your treatment, medication to prevent nausea may be prescribed. At home, you may also have to take medication for 1 or 2 days or more, as needed.› Contact a member of your healthcare team if your medication does not relieve your nausea.
Usually there is no hair loss with this treatment.	
A decrease in the white blood cells may occur about 1 to 2 weeks following treatment. You may be at higher risk of infections during this period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Wash your hands often.› During this period, avoid coming into contact with people who have contagious diseases.› Consult your doctor or go immediately to the Emergency Room if you have a fever 38,3°C (101°F) once or 38°C (100,4°F) twice an hour apart.› Contact a member of your healthcare team quickly if you notice any signs of infection (fever, chills, cough, sore throat, pain while urinating...)› In case of fever, do not take acetaminophen (Ex: Tylenol®, Atasol®) and anti-inflammatory medication (Ex : Motrin®, Advil®, Aleve®).

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A decrease in platelets may occur about 1 to 2 weeks following treatment. You may bruise or bleed more easily than you normally do. Minor bleeding such as nose bleed may also occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Use a tooth brush with soft bristles.› Check with your pharmacist before taking medications with Aspirin®, Ibuprofen or other anti-inflammatory drugs.› Contact a member of your healthcare team if you bruise more easily than you normally do or if you have a tendency to bleed easily from the nose or the gums. <p>For a nose bleed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">› Sit down straight with you head slightly bent forward.› Apply a continuous pressure on your nostrils for a few minutes then check if the bleeding has stopped.› Avoid blowing your nose for 12 hours after the bleeding.› If the bleeding lasts more than 20 minutes, consult immediately your physician or go to the Emergency Room.
You may experience muscle, bone and joint pain and cramps that may occur during your treatment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› If this occurs, speak to a member of your healthcare team who will recommend analgesics.
You may experience headaches .	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› If this happens, talk to a member of your healthcare team who will recommend an appropriate analgesic.
You may experience constipation .	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Exercise if possible.› Drink lots of liquids (at least 8 glasses a day) (unless otherwise instructed by your doctor).› Eat foods that are rich in fibre (cereals, fruits and vegetables).› Communicate with a member of your healthcare team who, if necessary, will prescribe the appropriate laxatives.

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You may sometimes experience diarrhea .	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Drink lots of liquids unless otherwise instructed by your doctor.› Please contact a member of your healthcare team if you have significant diarrhea (more than 3 loose stools per day) for more than 24 hours.› If you have with diarrhea with fever, contact immediately a member of your health care team.
You may experience numbness or tingling of the hands and feet . This phenomenon usually increases with the number of treatments received.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› If you experience these symptoms, notify a member of your healthcare team at your next visit.
Rarely, you may experience infusion reactions . Fever and chills are infrequent during the first infusion. Nausea, pain, cough, headaches, dizziness, trembling, cutaneous eruptions may also occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Notify the nurse if these symptoms occur during the administration of the drug. Medications can be given to alleviate these symptoms.
Rare adverse effects that can be severe or serious to communicate quickly to your doctor	
You may experience shortness of breath, swelling of the ankles and rapid heartbeats .	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› If you notice any one these effects, contact a member of your healthcare team as soon as possible.
If you experience a cough and/or persistent fever with sudden difficulty breathing .	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Consult immediately a member of your healthcare team or go to the Emergency Room.

Pharmacist: _____

Phone: _____

from ____ h to ____ h (Monday to Friday)