

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 Cisplatin – fluorouracil (5FU) - trastuzumab

Date: October 2016

Revision:

Medication	Administration
Trastuzumab	Intravenous infusion over 30 minutes on day 1* *First dose is always administered over 90 minutes.
Cisplatin	Intravenous over a few hours depending on the dose on day 1
Fluorouracil (5FU)	Continuous intravenous infusion over 5 days
<i>Treatment repeated every 3 weeks for 6 cycles, then trastuzumab is continued alone every 3 weeks</i>	

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General Information associated with your treatment:

- › These medications are 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.
- › Your **appetite may diminish**. Eat more often, in smaller quantities.
- › 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 **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. A **birth control method** is strongly recommended during treatment. Breast-feeding 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
For the first 6 cycles, severe nausea and vomiting may occur and persist up to 5 days following your treatment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› You will be prescribed medication to prevent nausea to be taken prior to treatment. At home, you will take medication on a regular basis and others as needed for at least 2 days following your treatment.› Communicate with a member of your healthcare team if the nausea or vomiting is not relieved by your medication.
Depending on the individual, thinning of the hair may occur. In general, this happens 2 to 3 weeks after the start of the treatment. However, don't worry; your hair will grow back after treatments have ended.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Use gentle shampoo.› Avoid brushing hair vigorously.› Avoid hair spray, dyes and perms.
A decrease in the white blood cells will occur about 7 to 10 days after the start of 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®, ...).
A decrease in platelets will occur about 7 to 10 days following treatment. You may bruise or bleed more easily than you normally do.	<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.

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You may experience allergic reactions with trastuzumab. Fever and chills are relatively frequent 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.
You may sometimes experience diarrhea , which may start approximately 5 to 8 days after the start of treatment.	<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 diarrhea with fever, contact immediately a member of your health care team or go to the Emergency Room.
<p>You may have redness, mild swelling and dry skin on your hands and feet. This is called hand and foot syndrome and is rarely painful.</p> <p>Your skin may become dryer. Redness and itchiness may develop.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Use a non-perfumed moisturizing cream as needed. › Notify a member of your healthcare team if these symptoms occur and affect your daily activities. Some measures can be recommended.
Ulcers in the mouth and the throat may appear approximately 7 to 10 days following the start of your treatment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Gently and regularly brush your teeth after each meal and at bedtime. › Rinse your mouth with a solution of water and salt with or without baking soda. Gargle 4 times a day – after every meal and at bedtime. Do not drink or eat for one hour after you gargle. › Mouthwashes without alcohol found in stores are a good alternative. › If you notice ulcers, redness or painful areas in your mouth, contact a member of your healthcare team.
Leg weakness, numbness or tingling of hand and feet may occur. These symptoms usually increase with the number of treatments given.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › If you experience these symptoms, notify a member of your healthcare team at your next visit.

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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.
Cisplatin may affect your kidneys .	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Drink plenty of water or fluid (10-12 glasses of 230ml or 8oz.) daily for the 48 to 72 hours following your treatment unless otherwise instructed by your doctor, and urinate frequently.› Notify a member of your healthcare team if you urinate less than normally.
Cisplatin may cause ringing in your ears and rarely hearing loss .	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› If you experience these symptoms, notify a member of your healthcare team at your next visit.
Your skin may become more sensitive to the sun .	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Avoid going into the sun.› Use sun screen with SPF 30 or higher.› Wear a hat.
Your eyes may become excessively teary , itchy and may or may not develop redness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Contact a member of your healthcare team who can recommend appropriate treatment.
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. This could be related to some harmful effects of trastuzumab on your heart.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› If you notice any one these effects, contact a member of your healthcare team as soon as possible.› Furthermore, you will have to do a cardiac test to evaluate your heart regularly.
If you experience palpitations of the heart, chest pain and/or shortness of breath.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Immediately go to the Emergency Room.

Pharmacist: _____ **Phone:** _____
from _____ h to _____ h (Monday to Friday)