



## For the Patient: BRAJTR

Other names: BRAJTR

TR Trastuzumab (HERCEPTIN®)

### BC Cancer Agency

#### Uses:

- BRAJTR is an intravenous drug treatment given after breast cancer surgery and adjuvant chemotherapy in the hope of destroying breast cancer cells that may have spread to other parts of your body. This treatment may reduce the chance of your breast cancer coming back and may improve your overall survival or chance of a cure.

#### Treatment Plan:

- If your Trastuzumab therapy is starting after chemotherapy, your treatment plan will consist of 17 treatment cycles, given once every 3 weeks, over approximately 1 year. Prior to the first treatment with trastuzumab you may have a test of your heart function or other tests and will see your oncologist.
- BRAJTR is a drug treatment that will be given to patients who have been treated approximately within the last three months for cure with adjuvant chemotherapy.
- If needed, radiation therapy will start after your chemotherapy cycles are finished and will continue during your Trastuzumab therapy. Hormone treatments may also be started during Trastuzumab therapy, if your oncologist has recommended these for you. You may also proceed to have surgery while on Trastuzumab, if needed, and should discuss the timing with your oncologist.
- You should not need premedication while you are on Trastuzumab by itself, after chemotherapy. Each visit will take about 90 minutes in the chemotherapy room.

#### Instructions:

- Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start taking any new drugs. Other drugs such as Phenytoin (DILANTIN®), Warfarin (COUMADIN®), and Digoxin (LANOXIN®) may interact with BRAJTR.
- You may drink small amounts of alcohol, as it will not affect the safety or usefulness of your treatment.
- Tell other doctors that you are being treated with BRAJTR before you receive any treatment from them.
- If you were having menstrual periods before chemotherapy, these may have stopped temporarily or permanently during or after chemotherapy. Even if you have stopped having periods after treatment, if you were fertile prior to chemotherapy, you may be able to conceive a pregnancy. Use birth control (but **not** birth control pills) if you could become pregnant, even if you have stopped menstruating because of chemotherapy. Do not breast feed during treatment. Talk to your doctor if you have questions about fertility and birth control after treatment.

#### Serious Risks of Treatment:

**Unexpected and unlikely side effects can occur with any drug treatment. The ones listed below are particularly relevant to your treatment plan:**

**During or after treatment:**

- **Heart Failure:** Rarely, Trastuzumab can have a serious effect on the heart, causing failure of the heart's pumping action, which results in shortness of breath, fatigue and leg swelling. This can sometimes develop years after treatment. Your heart function will be tested before you start Trastuzumab, as well as every 3 months while you complete the Trastuzumab therapy. The treatment may be stopped or interrupted if there are concerns about your heart function during the year.

**Common chemotherapy side effects and management:**

SIDE EFFECT	MANAGEMENT
<p>A <b>flu-like illness</b> may occur shortly after your treatment with Trastuzumab. You may have fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, joint aches, cough, sore throat, and stuffy or runny nose. Flu-like symptoms usually disappear on their own.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 3-4 hours if needed.</li> <li>• Fever and chills which occur more than 48 hours after treatment may be signs of an infection. They should be reported to the doctor immediately. See details below.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chills or fever</b> are common while trastuzumab is being infused during the first treatment. Less common are nausea, vomiting, pain, shivering, headache, dizziness, problems breathing, rash and weakness during the infusion. Reactions are uncommon with later treatments even if you have a reaction with the first treatment.</p>	<p>Tell your nurse or doctor <b>immediately</b> if you have a reaction during the treatment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your trastuzumab may be given more slowly.</li> <li>• You may be given other drugs to treat the reaction.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Diarrhea</b> may infrequently occur.</p>	<p>To help diarrhea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink plenty of liquids.</li> <li>• Eat and drink often in small amounts.</li> </ul> <p>Avoid high fiber foods as outlined in <i>Food ideas to help with diarrhea during chemotherapy</i>.</p>

**If you experience symptoms or changes in your body that have not been described above but worry you, or if any symptoms are severe, contact**

\_\_\_\_\_ at telephone number \_\_\_\_\_