



For the Patient: BRAVTR

Other names: BRAVTR

TR Trastuzumab (HERCEPTIN®)

BC Cancer Agency

Uses:

- BRAVTR is a drug treatment given as therapy for metastatic breast cancer, in the hope of destroying breast cancer cells that have spread to other parts of your body, or preventing their regrowth after a combination of chemotherapy and trastuzumab (HERCEPTIN®). This treatment may improve your overall survival and help reduce your symptoms. Trastuzumab is an antibody treatment, targeted against an abnormality in some breast cancer cells.

Treatment Plan:

- Your treatment plan consists of treatment cycles given every three weeks. Trastuzumab is given intravenously at every visit. The frequency of doctor visits, blood tests, or imaging tests will be determined by your treating doctor, depending on your cancer situation
- BRAVTR will in most cases be treatment that will continue on until cancer progression after initial treatment with one of the following chemotherapy and trastuzumab programs: BRAVTRAP, BRAVTRAD, BRAVTPC or BRAVTRNAV.
- You should not need premedication while you are on Trastuzumab by itself. 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 BRAVTR.
- Tell other doctors that you are being treated with trastuzumab before you receive any treatment from them.
- You may drink small amounts of alcohol, as it will not affect the safety or usefulness of your treatment.
- If you were still having menstrual periods before chemotherapy, your periods may resume while you are on BRAVTR. Even if you have stopped having periods after treatment, if you were fertile prior to chemotherapy, you may be able to conceive a pregnancy before having a period. 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 while on this 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. Your heart function will be tested if you develop symptoms that may suggest heart failure, while you are on BRAVTR. Your doctor may or may not recommend a heart function test before you start treatment, or at intervals while you remain on treatment. The treatment may be stopped or interrupted if there are concerns about your heart function while on therapy.
- **Lung failure:** Very rarely, women with significant lung problems already may develop worsened lung problems while on BRAVTR. This is very unlikely in women who are not already on oxygen therapy for lung problems when treatment is started.

Common drug side effects and management:

SIDE EFFECT	MANAGEMENT
<p>A flu-like illness 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"> • Take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 3-4 hours if needed. • Fever and chills which occur more than 48 hours after treatment may be signs of an infection. They should be reported to the doctor.
<p>Chills or fever 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 immediately if you have a reaction during the treatment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your trastuzumab may be given more slowly. • You may be given other drugs to treat the reaction.
<p>Diarrhea may infrequently occur.</p>	<p>Discuss this with your doctor if it is significant or concerning to you. You may use Imodium if symptoms are significant, but in most cases, treatment is not needed.</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 _____