



**BC Cancer Agency**

## **For the Patient: GIRALT**

Other Names: Palliative chemotherapy for metastatic colorectal cancer using Raltitrexed in patients with previous Fluorouracil toxicity.

**GI** = GastroIntestinal

**RALT** = Raltitrexed

### **ABOUT THIS MEDICATION**

#### **What is this drug used for?**

- Raltitrexed is a drug given to treat cancer of the colon or rectum. It is given directly into the vein, or intravenously (IV).

#### **How does this drug work?**

- Raltitrexed works by interfering with dividing cells and preventing an increase in the number of cancer cells.

### **INTENDED BENEFITS**

- This therapy is being given to destroy and/or limit the growth of cancer cells in your body. This treatment may improve your current symptoms, and delay the onset of new symptoms.
- It may take several treatments before your doctor can judge whether or not this treatment is helping.

### **TREATMENT SUMMARY**

#### **How is this drug given?**

- You will receive one intravenous (IV) chemotherapy drug called Raltitrexed. It will be given to you at the clinic by a chemotherapy nurse. Each treatment will take **about 30 minutes**. Your first treatment will probably take longer, as the nurse will review information on the chemotherapy drug with you.
- The treatment is repeated every 3 weeks. This 3 week or 21-day period of time is called a "cycle". The cycle may be repeated up to 6 cycles, or longer if your body responds well to the drug, but may be changed depending on how the chemotherapy affects you.

**The calendar on the following page outlines your overall treatment plan.**

<b>C Y C L E</b>  1	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TREATMENT PLAN</b>
		▶ Week 1 → Raltitrexed IV x 1 day
		Week 2 → No Treatment
		Week 3 → No Treatment

<b>C Y C L E</b>  2	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TREATMENT PLAN</b>
		▶ Week 1 → Raltitrexed IV x 1 day
		Week 2 → No Treatment
		Week 3 → No Treatment

<b>C Y C L E</b>  3	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TREATMENT PLAN</b>
		▶ Week 1 → Raltitrexed IV x 1 day
		Week 2 → No Treatment
		Week 3 → No Treatment

<b>C Y C L E</b>  4	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TREATMENT PLAN</b>
		▶ Week 1 → Raltitrexed IV x 1 day
		Week 2 → No Treatment
		Week 3 → No Treatment

<b>C Y C L E</b>  5	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TREATMENT PLAN</b>
		▶ Week 1 → Raltitrexed IV x 1 day
		Week 2 → No Treatment
		Week 3 → No Treatment

<b>C Y C L E</b>  6	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TREATMENT PLAN</b>
		▶ Week 1 → Raltitrexed IV x 1 day
		Week 2 → No Treatment
		Week 3 → No Treatment

### What will happen when I get my drugs?

- A blood test is done each cycle, on or before the first day of each treatment cycle. The dose and timing of your chemotherapy may be changed based on your blood counts and/or other side effects.

### Side Effects

- The doctor will review the risks of treatment and possible side effects with you before starting the treatment.
- The chemotherapy nurse will review possible side effects and how to manage these side effects with you on the day you receive your first treatment.
- Unexpected and unlikely side effects can occur with any drug treatment. Please refer to the patient information handout titled "***For the Patient: raltitrexed***" for a complete list of possible side effects and their management.

### Medication Interactions

- Other drugs such as folic acid, leucovorin (folinic acid) or vitamin preparations containing folic acid or leucovorin may interact with raltitrexed. Do not take these products the day before or on the day of your raltitrexed treatment. Tell your doctor if you are taking these or any other drugs as you may need extra blood tests or your dose may need to be changed. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start taking any new drugs. Please refer to "***For the Patient: raltitrexed***".

**If you experience symptoms or changes in your body that have not been described in "***For the Patient: raltitrexed***" but worry you, or if any symptoms are severe, contact:**

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