



Provincial Health Services Authority

**For the Patient: Trastuzumab**

Other names: HERCEPTIN®, HERZUMA®, OGIVRI®, TRAZIMERA®

- **Trastuzumab** (tras too' zoo mab) is a drug that is used to treat some types of cancer. It is a monoclonal antibody, a type of protein designed to target and interfere with the growth of cancer cells. It is a clear liquid that is injected into a vein.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to trastuzumab before receiving trastuzumab.
- A **blood test** may be taken before each treatment. Your **heart function** may be tested regularly during treatment. The dose and timing of your chemotherapy may be changed based on the test results and/or other side effects.
- Other drugs may **interact** with trastuzumab. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start or stop taking any other drugs.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of trastuzumab.
- **Trastuzumab** may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with trastuzumab and for at least seven months after treatment has ended. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breastfeed during treatment.
- **Tell** doctors, dentists, and other health professionals that you are being treated with trastuzumab before you receive any treatment from them.

Side effects are listed in the following table in the order in which they may occur. Tips to help manage the side effects are included.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p><b>Allergic reactions</b> may rarely occur. Signs of an allergic reaction may include chills, fever, shivering, nausea, vomiting, headache, dizziness, problems breathing, rash and weakness during the infusion. Reactions are less common with later treatments even if you have a reaction with the first treatment.</p>	<p>Tell your nurse <b>immediately</b> if this happens while you are receiving trastuzumab.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your trastuzumab may be temporarily stopped and then given more slowly when restarted.</li> <li>You may be given other drugs to treat the reaction.</li> </ul> <p>Contact your oncologist <b>immediately</b> if this happens after you leave the clinic.</p>
<p><b>Fever, chills, and flu-like illness</b> may rarely occur shortly after treatment with trastuzumab. Fever should last no longer than 24 hours.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day.</li> <li>Fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer) which occurs more than a few days after treatment may be a sign of an infection. Report this to your doctor <b>immediately</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pain or tenderness</b> may occur where the needle was placed.</p>	<p>Apply cool compresses or soak in cool water for 15-20 minutes several times a day.</p>
<p><b>Nausea and vomiting</b> may occur after your treatment. Most people have little or no nausea.</p>	<p>You may be given a prescription for antinausea drug(s) to take before your chemotherapy treatment and/or at home. <b>It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred</b>, so follow directions closely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drink plenty of fluids.</li> <li>Eat and drink often in small amounts.</li> </ul> <p>Try the ideas in <i>Practical Tips to Manage Nausea</i>.*</p>
<p><b>Headache</b> may sometimes occur.</p>	<p>Take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours if needed, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day.</p>
<p><b>Hair loss</b> does not occur with trastuzumab.</p>	

**\*Please ask your chemotherapy nurse or pharmacist for a copy.**

**SEE YOUR DOCTOR OR GET EMERGENCY HELP IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE:**

- Signs of an **infection** such as fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer), shaking chills; severe sore throat, productive cough (coughing up thick or green sputum); cloudy or foul smelling urine; painful, tender, or swollen red skin wounds or sores.
- Signs of an **allergic reaction** (rare) soon after a treatment including dizziness, fast heart beat, face swelling, or breathing problems.
- Signs of **heart or lung problems** such as fast or uneven heartbeat, chest pain, chest pressure, shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing, swelling of feet or lower legs, or fainting.

**SEE YOUR DOCTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (DURING OFFICE HOURS) IF YOU HAVE:**

- Signs of **liver problems** such as yellow eyes or skin, white or clay-coloured stools.
- Increased **sore throat or mouth** that makes it difficult to swallow comfortably.

**CHECK WITH YOUR DOCTOR IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONTINUE OR BOTHER YOU:**

- Constipation, diarrhea, or abdominal discomfort.
- Muscle, joint pain, or headache.
- Nasal congestion or discharge.
- Breast soreness or hot flashes.
- Skin rash or itching.
- Nail changes.
- Trouble sleeping or feelings of depression or nervousness.
- Tiredness, weakness, or lack of energy.
- Weight gain.

**REPORT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS TO YOUR DOCTOR**

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