



Provincial Health Services Authority

For the Patient: Panitumumab

Other names: VECTIBIX®

- **Panitumumab** (pan i toom' ue 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 panitumumab or other antibody treatment before receiving panitumumab.
- A **blood test** may be taken before each treatment. The dose and timing of your chemotherapy may be changed based on the test results and/or other side effects.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of panitumumab.
- Panitumumab may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** during treatment with panitumumab and for a period of time after treatment has stopped. Check with your doctor if you or your partner plan to become pregnant. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breast feed during treatment and for a period of time after treatment has stopped.
- **Tell** doctors, dentists, and other health professionals that you are being treated with panitumumab 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
Chills, fever, and shortness of breath may sometimes occur during the first panitumumab infusion. Reactions are less common with later treatments.	Tell your nurse or doctor immediately if you have a reaction during your treatment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your panitumumab may be temporarily stopped and then given more slowly. • You may be given other drugs to treat the reaction.
Pain or tenderness may occur where the needle was placed.	Apply cool compresses or soak in cool water for 15-20 minutes several times a day.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p>Nausea and vomiting may occur after your treatment.</p>	<p>You may be given a prescription for antinausea drug(s) to take before your chemotherapy treatment and/or at home. It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred, so follow directions closely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink plenty of fluids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts. • Try the ideas in <i>Practical Tips to Manage Nausea</i>.*
<p>Skin reactions such as acne, redness, rash, dryness or itchiness commonly occur.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid direct sunlight and tanning salons during treatment. • Wear a hat, long sleeves, and long pants outside on sunny days. • Wear a sunscreen that blocks both UVA and UVB and has a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 30. Apply liberally, 30 minutes before exposure. Reapply every 2 hours and after swimming. • Refer to <i>Your Medication Sun Sensitivity and Sunscreens*</i> or the <i>BC Health Guide</i> for more information <p>If your skin reaction doesn't go away or gets worse, call your doctor. Otherwise, be sure to mention it at your next visit.</p>
<p>Nail changes, including loosening or loss of the nail, and swelling, may occur.</p>	<p>If nails are painful, you may take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day or ibuprofen (e.g., ADVIL®) for mild to moderate pain. Tell your doctor if the pain interferes with your activity. Otherwise, be sure to mention it at your next visit.</p>
<p>Diarrhea may sometimes occur.</p>	<p>If diarrhea is a problem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink plenty of fluids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts. • Avoid high fibre foods as outlined in <i>Food Choices to Help Manage Diarrhea</i>.*
<p>Constipation may sometimes occur.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise if you can. • Drink plenty of fluids. • Try ideas in <i>Food Choices to Manage Constipation</i>.*

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Pain may sometimes occur.	You may take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day or ibuprofen (e.g., ADVIL®) for mild to moderate pain. Tell your doctor if the pain continues or interferes with your activity.
Swelling of hands, feet, or lower legs may sometimes occur if your body retains extra fluid.	If swelling is a problem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevate your feet when sitting. • Avoid tight clothing.
Loss of appetite and weight loss are common.	Try the ideas in <i>Food Ideas to Help with Decreased Appetite</i> .*
Tiredness and lack of energy may occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you are feeling tired. • Try the ideas in <i>Fatigue/Tiredness – Patient Handout</i> OR <i>Your Bank to Energy Savings: Helping People with Cancer Handle Fatigue</i>.*
Hair loss is rare with panitumumab. If you lose hair, it will grow back once you stop treatment with panitumumab. Texture may change or unusual hair growth may occur.	If hair loss is a problem, refer to <i>Resources for Hair Loss and Appearance Changes – Patient Handout</i> .*

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

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

- Signs of an **allergic reaction** (rare) soon after a treatment including fever, dizziness, fast heart beat, face swelling, chills 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.
- 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.
- Persistent **loose watery stools**, especially if thirst, fever, dizziness or decreased urine are present.

