



Provincial Health Services Authority

## For the Patient: Ramucirumab

Other names: CYRAMZA®

- **Ramucirumab** (ra" mue sir' ue mab) is a drug that is used to treat many 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 ramucirumab before receiving ramucirumab.
- A **blood test**, **urine test**, and **blood pressure measurement** may be taken before each treatment. The dose and timing of your treatment 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 ramucirumab.
- Ramucirumab may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with ramucirumab and for three months after your last treatment. Tell your doctor right away if you become pregnant. Do not breastfeed during treatment and for three months after your last treatment.
- **Tell** doctors, dentists, and other health professionals that you are being treated with ramucirumab before you receive any treatment from them.
- If you are planning to have **surgery**, you should stop ramucirumab before surgery and not restart ramucirumab after surgery until the surgical wound is fully healed. This helps to lower the risk of bleeding and may prevent problems with wound healing after surgery.

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 sometimes occur. Signs of an allergic reaction may include flushing, rash, itching, dizziness, swelling or breathing problems.</p> <p>This can occur immediately or several hours after receiving ramucirumab and usually with the first or second dose.</p>	<p>Tell your nurse if this happens while you are receiving ramucirumab or contact your oncologist <b>immediately</b> if this happens after you leave the clinic.</p>

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<b>Pain or tenderness</b> may occur where the needle was placed.	Apply cool compresses or soak in cool water for 15-20 minutes several times a day.
<b>Nausea</b> and <b>vomiting</b> may occur after your treatment. Most people have little or no nausea.	You may be given a prescription for anti-nausea drug(s) to take before your treatment. <b>It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred</b> , so follow directions closely. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids.</li> <li>• Eat and drink often in small amounts.</li> <li>• Try the ideas in <a href="#">Practical Tips to Manage Nausea</a>.*</li> </ul>
<b>Diarrhea</b> may sometimes occur.	If diarrhea is a problem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids.</li> <li>• Eat and drink often in small amounts.</li> <li>• Avoid high fibre foods as outlined in <a href="#">Food Choices to Help Manage Diarrhea</a>.*</li> </ul>
<b>Headache</b> may rarely occur.	Take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours if needed, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day.
<b>Hair loss</b> does not occur with ramucirumab.	

**\*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 dizziness, fast heartbeat, face swelling, or breathing problems.
- Signs of a **stroke** such as sudden onset of severe headache, eyesight changes, slurred speech, loss of coordination, weakness or numbness in arm or leg.
- Signs of **bleeding problems** such as black, tarry stools; blood in urine; pinpoint red spots on skin; extensive bruising.
- **Seizures** or **loss of consciousness** with or without **confusion, headache**, or changes in **eyesight**.
- Signs of **heart problems** such as chest pain, chest pressure, or shortness of breath.
- Sudden **abdominal pain**.

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

- Signs of **anemia** such as unusual tiredness or weakness.
- **Sores** that do not heal or are slow to heal.

