



Provincial Health Services Authority

For the Patient: GIAVPANI

Other Names: Palliative third line treatment of metastatic cancer of the colon or rectum using Panitumumab

GI = GastroIntestinal

AV = Advanced

PANI = Panitumumab

ABOUT THIS MEDICATION

What are these drugs used for?

- Panitumumab is a drug given to treat cancer of the colon or rectum.

How do these drugs work?

- Panitumumab is a monoclonal antibody, a type of protein designed to target and interfere with the growth 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 are these drugs given?

- Panitumumab is given directly into the vein (IV).
- You will receive panitumumab at the clinic by a chemotherapy nurse, for **one day only**. Your treatment will last about **one and a half** or **two hours**. Your first treatment will probably take longer, as the nurse will review information on the chemotherapy drug with you.
- The treatment is repeated every 2 weeks. This 2 week period of time is called a “cycle”. The cycle is usually repeated as long as you are benefiting from treatment and not having too many side effects, as determined by your oncologist.

The calendar on the following page shows how the medication is given each 2 week cycle.

C Y C L E	DATE	TREATMENT PLAN
		▶ Week 1 → Panitumumab IV on day 1 only
		▶ Week 2 → no treatment
1		

C Y C L E	DATE	TREATMENT PLAN
		▶ Week 1 → Panitumumab IV on day 1 only
		▶ Week 2 → no treatment
2		

Treatment is continued as long as you are benefiting from treatment and not having too many side effects.

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 AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

Unexpected and unlikely side effects can occur with any drug treatment. The ones listed below are particularly important for you to be aware of as they are directly related to the common actions of the drug in your treatment plan.

You doctor will review the risks of treatment and possible side effects with you before starting treatment. The chemotherapy nurse will review possible side effects of the drug and how to manage those side effects with you on the day you receive your first treatment.

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS DURING TREATMENT	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

OTHER SIDE EFFECTS DURING TREATMENT	MANAGEMENT

OTHER SIDE EFFECTS DURING TREATMENT	MANAGEMENT
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.
Nausea and vomiting may occur after your treatment.	You may be given a prescription for anti-nausea 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. <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 Help Manage Nausea*</i>
Skin reactions such as acne, redness, rash, dryness or itchiness commonly occur.	<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. • Frequent moisturizing with alcohol-free emollient creams is recommended. • Do not use over-the-counter acne preparations. • Your doctor may prescribe a topical cream or oral antibiotic to manage the acne-like rash. • 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>
Nail changes , including loosening or loss of the nail, and swelling, may occur.	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.
Diarrhea may sometimes occur.	If diarrhea is a problem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink plenty of liquids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts • Avoid high fibre foods as outlined in <i>Food Ideas to Help Manage Diarrhea*</i>
Constipation may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise if you can. • Drink plenty of fluids. • Try ideas in <i>Suggestions for Dealing with Constipation.*</i>

OTHER SIDE EFFECTS DURING TREATMENT	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 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • <i>Try the ideas in the handout titled Fatigue/Tiredness*.</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.*</i>

* Please ask your chemotherapy nurse, pharmacist or dietitian for a copy

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PATIENT

- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to panitumumab or other antibody treatment before receiving panitumumab.
- 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. 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.

Medication Interactions

At present, very little information is available regarding possible interactions with panitumumab. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start taking any new drugs.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS VERY IMPORTANT

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.

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

- Severe **skin reaction**, including the areas around the nails, that is painful, red, or swollen.
- Unusual **tiredness** or weakness.
- Signs of **liver problems** such as yellow eyes or skin, white or clay-coloured stools.
- Signs of **kidney problems** such as lower back or side pain, swelling of feet or lower legs.
- **Numbness or tingling** in feet or hands.
- **Changes in eyesight**, sustained eye pain, sensitivity to light or severe eye redness.

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

- Uncontrolled nausea, vomiting, constipation, diarrhea, loss of appetite or weight loss.
- Dry mouth or increased thirst.
- Redness, swelling, pain, or sores on your lips, tongue, mouth, or throat.
- Headache or other pain not controlled with acetaminophen (e.g., **TYLENOL®**).
- Skin rash or dry, itchy skin.
- Changes to eyelashes or eyebrow hair, unusual hair growth.
- Confusion, anxiety or depression.
- Trouble sleeping.
- Easy bruising or minor bleeding.

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: _____