Tan Tock Seng HOSPITAL

PHARMACY

Drug Information

Ramucirumab (Cyramza®) Injection

What is Ramucirumab?

- Ramucirumab is used for the treatment of advanced gastric cancer, advanced colorectal cancer or non-small cell lung cancer, usually in combination with other chemotherapy agents.

How is Ramucirumab Administered / Taken?

- Ramucirumab is administered as an infusion into your vein (intravenous).

Can Ramucirumab be Administered / Taken With Other Medications?

- Please inform your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking other medications, including supplements, traditional or herbal remedies.

What are the Important Side Effects of Ramucirumab?

Inform the nurses immediately during infusion of Ramucirumab if you experience the following:

- Flu-like symptoms, such as headache, feeling flushed, having a fever, chills or dizziness.
- Red, warm and itchy bumps on the skin.
- Swelling in the lips, tongue or throat.
- Breathlessness, wheezing, a cough or sudden difficulty breathing.
- Chest tightness or chest pain.

- Rarely, an infusion-related reaction can happen a few hours after treatment. If you develop any of the symptoms above or feel unwell after you get home, please proceed to the A & E department immediately.
- Medications prescribed by your doctor should be beneficial for your condition even though they may result in some inevitable side effects.

Side Effect	Management
Nausea or Vomiting	• Small frequent meals or sucking hard, sugar-free candy may help. • Please remember to take the medicines for nausea or vomiting as instructed by your doctor.

Side Effect	Management
Increase in blood pressure	• Blood pressure will be monitored regularly each time you come to the clinic. If you have blood pressure monitoring machine at home, you can measure your own blood pressure every day and record it in a book. • Please remember to take the medicines for high blood pressure if you have high blood pressure.
Increased chances of bleeding	• Please proceed to the A & E department immediately if you cough up blood, have any unusual bruising, persistent nosebleeds or bleeding gums, unexpected vaginal bleeding, your vomit is bloody or looks like coffee grounds and/or you have black, tarry stools.
Headaches	• Mild pain can be relieved by taking Paracetamol (Panadol®). Inform your doctor if pain is not controlled by Paracetamol (Panadol®). Just a reminder to avoid Paracetamol (Panadol ®) when you are having fever. • Inform your doctor if headache persists or if it is associated with vomiting, confusion or visual changes.
Constipation	• Drinking more fluids, exercising and adding fibre to your diet may help. • Inform your doctor if it is severe.

Side Effect	Management
Diarrhoea	• Your doctor can prescribe medicines to control diarrhoea. Inform your doctor if it is severe or if it does not improve with medication. • Make sure you drink at least two litres (8 cups) of fluids every day when you have diarrhoea. • Avoid milk or dairy products and/or high fibre food whilst you are having diarrhoea.
Slow wound healing	• Wounds may take longer to heal while you are being treated with Ramucirumab. If you have any surgery planned you should stop Ramucirumab for four weeks before the operation and not start it again until four weeks afterwards, as long as the wound is fully healed.
Signs of a stroke	• Please proceed to the A & E department immediately if you experience sudden onset of severe headache, eyesight changes, slurred speech and loss of coordination, weakness or numbness in arm or leg.
Signs of a blood clot	• Please proceed to the A & E department immediately if you experience tenderness or hardness over a vein, calf swelling and tenderness, sudden onset of cough, chest pain, or shortness of breath.

Side Effect	Management
Changes in the way the heart works	• Please proceed to the A & E department immediately if you experience sudden swelling of hands or feet, shortness of breath and/or chest pain.

If you develop rashes, facial swelling or shortness of breath after taking the medication, you could be allergic to the medication. Please seek medical attention immediately.

Are There Any Special Precautions That I Need to Take?

- It is important to inform your doctor if you intend to conceive or breastfeed while taking this medication.
- You must not become pregnant during treatment with Ramucirumab and must use an effective method of contraception. You should take appropriate contraceptive measures during and up to 3 months after cessation of treatment. If pregnancy occurs during your treatment, you must inform your doctor immediately.
- Ramucirumab may have an anti-fertility effect, which could be irreversible. You should discuss with your doctor regarding fertility preservation prior to starting treatment.
- You should not breast-feed during treatment.

What Else Can I do to Help My Condition?

- Exercise

  Light exercise is recommended as it helps to improve mobility, balance and even emotional well-being. Avoid strenuous exercise, and rest when you are feeling tired.

- Stay positive

  Understand your condition and take an active role in managing it. Do not be afraid to talk about it with your doctor/ pharmacist/ family members. Repressed feelings can be harmful to your immediate well-being and long-term health.

- Adequate hydration

  Maintain adequate hydration with 2 to 3 litres (8 to 12 cups) of fluids per day unless informed by your doctor to restrict fluids. This will decrease your chances of getting constipation and also prevent dehydration.

- Medical and dental treatment

  If you need to go into hospital for any reason other than cancer, always inform the doctors and nurses that you are having chemotherapy.
  Talk to your cancer doctor if you think you need dental treatment. Always inform your dentist that you are having chemotherapy.

If you have any problem with your treatment, please contact your doctor, pharmacist or nurse clinician.

Tan Tock Seng HOSPITAL
National Healthcare Group

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