

## Pharmacy

### DRUG INFORMATION

## CAPIRI Regimen (Capecitabine, Irinotecan)



### What is CAPIRI Regimen?

- CAPIRI regimen is usually used to treat colorectal cancer. It consists of an Irinotecan injection and an oral chemotherapy drug Capecitabine.

### How Is CAPIRI Regimen Administered / Taken?

- CAPIRI regimen is usually given every 3 weeks. Irinotecan is administered into the vein (intravenous infusion) over 30 minutes on the first day of the cycle and Capecitabine is started on the evening of your Irinotecan infusion.
- Capecitabine is taken orally twice a day, about 10 to 12 hours apart, within 30 minutes after meals for 14 days followed by a one-week rest.
- The tablet should be swallowed whole. Do not chew or crush the capsules. Inform your doctor or pharmacist if you have difficulty swallowing.
- If possible, handle the medication yourself. Otherwise, family member or caregiver can help to handle the medications. Wash hands before and after handling the medication.
- If you miss a dose of Capecitabine, take it as soon as you can if it is within six hours of the missed dose. If it is more than six hours of the missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing time. Do not double the dosage.
- If you vomit the dose of Capecitabine, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times.

### Can CAPIRI Regimen Be Administered / Taken With Other Medications?

- Please inform your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking other medications, including Traditional Chinese Medicines, Jamu medicines or supplements.

### What Are the Important Side Effects of CAPIRI Regimen?

- Allergic reactions  
Irinotecan may rarely cause an allergic reaction while it is being given. Signs of a reaction can include rashes, flushing or shortness of breath,

swelling of your face or lips, feeling dizzy, having abdominal, back or chest pain or feeling unwell.

- Pain along the vein  
Irinotecan may cause pain along the vein. If you feel pain, tell your nurse straight away so that the infusion site can be checked. They may give the drug more slowly or flush it through with more fluids to reduce pain.
- Medications prescribed by your doctor should be beneficial for your condition even though they may result in some inevitable side effects.

Side Effect	Management
Risk of infection can occur as CAPIRI regimen can reduce the number of white blood cells in your blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reduce risk of infection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wash your hands after toileting.</li> <li>- Avoid crowds and people who are sick.</li> <li>- Avoid raw food.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Please proceed to the A&amp;E department immediately if you experience signs of infection such as fever with a temperature of 38°C and above, chills and shivering. Avoid taking Paracetamol (Panadol®) to relieve fever. Be aware that taking Paracetamol may mask your fever and hence delay treatment of infection.</li> </ul>
Bruising or bleeding can occur as CAPIRI regimen can reduce the number of platelets in your blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reduce risk of bleeding problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do not pick your nose.</li> <li>- Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush.</li> <li>- Be aware that bleeding may take a longer time to stop.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Please proceed to the A&amp;E department immediately if you experience any severe or persistent bleeding (eg, passing a large amount of fresh blood in urine or stools, or passing black sticky stools) or significant bruising.</li> </ul>

Side Effect	Management
Nausea or vomiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take small, frequent meals.</li> <li>• Avoid smells that precipitate nausea.</li> <li>• Take medicines for nausea or vomiting prescribed by your doctor.</li> <li>• Avoid tight-fitting clothes around the waist.</li> </ul>
Early diarrhoea may occur within 24 hours after Irinotecan treatment and may be accompanied with watery eyes, stomach cramps and sweating.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform nurses/ doctor immediately if it happens while chemotherapy is being given or proceed to A&amp;E department if it happens when you get home.</li> </ul>
Late diarrhoea may occur one day to several days after an Irinotecan treatment. It starts with stools being more loose or often than usual.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Late diarrhoea must be treated immediately with loperamide tablets. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Take two tablets at the first sign of loose or more frequent stools than usual.</li> <li>- Then take one tablet every two hours until diarrhoea has stopped for 12 hours.</li> <li>- At night, you may take two tablets every four hours during the time you usually sleep.</li> <li>- This dose is much higher than the package directions. It is very important that you take this higher dose to stop the diarrhoea.</li> <li>- Always keep a supply of loperamide (e.g. have 48 tablets on hand). You can buy loperamide at any pharmacy without a prescription.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Proceed to the A&amp;E department if diarrhoea does not improve 24 hours after starting loperamide or lasts more than 36 hours.</li> </ul>

Side Effect	Management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink at least two litres of fluids every day when you have diarrhoea.</li> <li>• Avoid milk, dairy products, high fibre food or spicy food while you are having diarrhoea.</li> </ul>
Mouth ulcers can occur on the tongue, the sides of the mouth or in the throat and this can lead to an infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brush your teeth gently after eating and at bedtime with a soft toothbrush.</li> <li>• Rinse and brush your dentures after eating and soak them in denture solution overnight.</li> <li>• Rinsing your mouth regularly with an alcohol-free mouth gargle or salt water may help reduce chances of infection.</li> </ul>
Hand-foot syndrome may occur during treatment. The palms of your hands and soles of your feet may become red, swollen darker, or feel numb or painful. Creases may also be observed. Skin may also become dry or itchy and your nail beds may also darken.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform your doctor if blisters, severe pain or ulcers affects your normal daily activities.</li> <li>• Avoid tight-fitting shoes.</li> <li>• Apply moisturizer to your hands and feet.</li> <li>• Apply sunscreen with an SPF (sun protection factor) of at least 30.</li> </ul>
Hair Loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear a wig or hat or use a gentle shampoo.</li> </ul>
Heart problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please proceed to the A&amp;E department immediately if you experience signs of heart problems such as shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chest pain, fast heartbeat, or sudden swelling of legs.</li> </ul>

**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?

- You must not become pregnant during treatment with CAPIRI regimen and must use an effective method of contraception. You should take appropriate contraceptive measures during and up to six months after stopping treatment. If pregnancy occurs during your treatment, you must inform your doctor immediately.
- CAPIRI regimen 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 two to three litres 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 receiving anti-cancer treatment.  
Talk to your cancer doctor if you think you need dental treatment. Always inform your dentist that you are receiving anti-cancer treatment.

## How Do I Store Capecitabine?

- Store your medication in a cool, dry place away from heat, moisture and direct sunlight.

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

**Please keep all medications out of reach of children.**

**You can also find useful information with regards to your medication on this website:**

<https://www.macmillan.org.uk/information-and-support>

**You may also scan the QR code below to watch the video on an introductory guide to chemotherapy treatment. This will provide you more information on the side effects and side effects management during your chemotherapy.**

- English Version



<https://for.sg/chemo-counseling>

- Chinese Version



<https://for.sg/chinese-chemo-counseling>



© Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore 2024. All rights reserved. All information correct as of July 2024. No part of this document may be reproduced, copied, reverse compiled, adapted, distributed, commercially exploited, displayed or stored in a database, retrieval system or transmitted in any form without prior permission of Tan Tock Seng Hospital. All information and material found in this document are for purposes of information only and are not meant to substitute any advice provided by your own physician or other medical professionals.