

PHARMACY

Drug Information

Trastuzumab Emtansine (Kadcyla®) Injection



What is Trastuzumab Emtansine Injection?

- Trastuzumab Emtansine is used for the treatment of breast cancer.

How is Trastuzumab Emtansine Administered?

- Trastuzumab Emtansine is given as an injection into the vein (intravenous) every three weeks. The first dose is given over 90 minutes and subsequent infusions can be given over 30 minutes if previous doses are well tolerated.

Can Trastuzumab Emtansine 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 Some Things to Take Note During the Infusion?

Infusion related reaction

- These are usually mild or moderate, but rarely, they can be more severe. You may be given drugs before the infusion to reduce the chance of a reaction happening.
- If you do have an infusion related reaction, this can usually be treated by slowing or stopping the drip until the reaction is over. Any future infusions will be given at a slower rate.
- *Inform the nurses immediately during infusion of Trastuzumab Emtansine 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 of the lips, tongue or throat
 - Breathlessness, wheezing, a cough or sudden difficulty breathing
 - Chest tightness or chest pain

What are the Important Side Effects of Trastuzumab Emtansine?

- 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 Trastuzumab Emtansine can reduce the number of white blood cells in your blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce risk of infection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wash your hands after toileting. - Avoid crowds and people who are sick. - Avoid raw food. • Please proceed to the A&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 fever and hence delay treatment of infection.
Bruising or bleeding may occur as Trastuzumab Emtansine can reduce the number of platelets in your blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce risk of bleeding problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Try not to bruise, cut or burn yourself. - Clean your nose by blowing gently. Do not pick your nose. - Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush as your gums may bleed easily. - Be aware that bleeding may take a longer time to stop. • Please proceed to the A & E department immediately if you experience signs of bleeding such as blood in urine or stools, or easy bruising.
Nausea or vomiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take small, frequent meals. • Avoid smells that precipitate nausea. • Take medicines for nausea or vomiting prescribed by your doctor. • Avoid tight-fitting clothes around the waist.

Numbness and tingling sensation in the hands or feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform your doctor if you have this symptom or trouble buttoning up shirts or if you are unable to pick up objects
Muscle aches and joint pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mild pain can be relieved by taking Paracetamol (Panadol ®). Inform your doctor if pain is not controlled by Paracetamol (Panadol ®). Avoid Paracetamol (Panadol ®) when you are having fever. • Taking regular warm baths may also help.
Fatigue or tiredness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not drive or operate machinery if you are feeling tired. Inform your doctor if fatigue is persistent or worsens.
Changes the way the heart works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may require tests to check how well your heart is working before, during and sometimes after treatment. • Please proceed to the A & E department immediately if you experience shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, tightness in chest, chest pain, fast or irregular heart beat or sudden swelling of legs.
Changes in the way the liver works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please proceed to the A & E department immediately if you experience any yellowing of eye white and skin or tea-coloured urine, pale stools or severe abdominal pain.
Lung problems (Pneumonitis, inflammation of the lung)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please proceed to the A&E department immediately if you experience difficulty in breathing, shortness of breath, chest pain and/or new or worsening cough

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 while you are on Trastuzumab Emtansine and must use an effective method of contraception. You should take appropriate contraceptive measures during and up to 7 months after stopping treatment. If pregnancy occurs during your treatment, you must inform your doctor immediately.
- Trastuzumab Emtansine 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.

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

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



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