

## PHARMACY

### Drug Information

# Ramucirumab Injection



### What is Ramucirumab?

- Ramucirumab is used to treat lung, gastric, colorectal and liver cancer.

### How is Ramucirumab Administered?

- Ramucirumab is usually given by injection into the vein (intravenous).
- The first infusion is given slowly over 60 minutes. Subsequent infusions can be given over a shorter period of time if you do not have any infusion related reactions.

### Can Ramucirumab 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 Ramucirumab?

- 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 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

- 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	<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>
Diarrhoea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform your doctor if this is severe and/or does not improve with medicine use.</li> <li>• Drink at least two litres (8 cups) of fluids every day when you are having diarrhoea.</li> <li>• Avoid milk, dairy products, high fibre food or spicy food while you are having diarrhoea.</li> </ul>
Headaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mild pain can be relieved by taking Paracetamol (Panadol ®). Inform your doctor if pain is not controlled by Paracetamol (Panadol ®).</li> <li>• Inform your doctor if headache persists or if it is associated with vomiting, confusion or visual changes.</li> </ul>
Slow wound healing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wounds may take longer to heal while you are being treated with Ramucirumab.</li> <li>• If you have any surgery planned, you should stop Ramucirumab for at least four weeks before and resume only when the wound is fully healed.</li> </ul>

Side Effect	Management
Increased in blood pressure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blood pressure will be monitored regularly when you come to the clinic. If you have a blood pressure monitoring machine at home, you can measure your blood pressure every day and record it in a book.</li> <li>• Please remember to take your prescribed medicines for high blood pressure.</li> </ul>
Increased chances of bleeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please proceed to the A&amp;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.</li> </ul>
Signs of a stroke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please proceed to the A&amp;E department immediately if you experience sudden onset of severe headache, eyesight changes, slurred speech, loss of coordination, weakness or numbness in an arm or leg.</li> </ul>
Signs of blood clot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please proceed to the A&amp;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.</li> </ul>
Heart problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please proceed to the A&amp;E department immediately if you experience shortness of breath, chest pain 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 Ramucirumab and must use an effective method of contraception. You should take appropriate contraceptive measures during and up to three months after stopping 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 two to three 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 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.

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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