



TRASTUZUMAB

OTHER NAMES: Herceptin®, HER-2/NEU antibody

PURPOSE: Trastuzumab is a drug (a protein called an antibody) used in the treatment of breast cancer. It interferes with growth and spread of tumor cells.

ADMINISTRATION: Trastuzumab is given by injection into a vein.

SIDE EFFECTS: Not all patients will experience all side effects.

SIDE EFFECT	MANAGEMENT
<p><u>Intravenous infusion related symptoms.</u> Most commonly consists of chills and/or fever. May also experience nausea, vomiting, pain in joints, muscles, bones or back, headaches, dizziness, difficulty breathing, rash and weakness. These usually occur during the first infusion and are less common with further treatments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These symptoms are usually mild to moderate. You may be given medications to treat these symptoms. • Acetaminophen (Tylenol®, or others), may be used to treat fever or aches and pains. • If any of these symptoms persist contact your doctor or nurse
<p>There is a risk for some patients to develop <u>heart problems</u>. Symptoms may include fast or uneven heartbeats, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing or swelling of the feet or lower legs. These symptoms may appear during treatment with trastuzumab or months to years after your treatment is complete.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your doctor will order heart tests to monitor your heart function. • If you develop any of these symptoms, contact your doctor immediately
<p>Other symptoms you may experience include diarrhea and tiredness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report these symptoms to your doctor or nurse.

OTHER IMPORTANT PRECAUTIONS:

- Other medications may react with trastuzumab. Do not start taking new medications or herbal products without checking with your doctor or pharmacist. Tell your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist if you are taking any other prescription or non-prescription medicine, vitamin, or herbal product.
- Inform other doctors, dentists, or pharmacists that you are taking trastuzumab.
- Inform your doctor, nurse, and pharmacist if you develop any new allergies or sensitivities.
- Discuss fertility and birth control with your doctor if necessary.
- If you experience any symptoms or problems not listed above, inform your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

If you have any questions regarding this or any other drug therapy, please phone your cancer centre.

Cross Cancer Institute – (780) 432-8771, Tom Baker Cancer Centre – (403) 521-3764
Central Alberta Cancer Centre – (403) 343-4802, Grande Prairie Cancer Centre – (780) 538-7288
Lethbridge Cancer Centre – (403) 329-0633, Medicine Hat Cancer Centre – (403) 529-8817

OR
