Brentuximab Vedotin

What is brentuximab vedotin (bren-TUX-i-mab ve-DOE-tin) and how does it work?

Brentuximab vedotin is an anti-cancer medicine that is an antineoplastic agent and a monoclonal antibody. Another name for this medicine is Adcetris. This targeted therapy has a monoclonal antibody and an antineoplastic (chemotherapy) agent that work together to destroy cancer cells.

What should I tell my doctor before getting chemotherapy?

Talk to your doctor about the following:

• If you have ever had chemotherapy and the names of the chemotherapy drugs you were given.
• If you have ever had liver or kidney problems.
• If you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant. Your doctor will talk with you about birth control while getting chemotherapy.
• If you are breastfeeding.
• If you have been told that you need to start a new medicine.
• The medicines/pills you are taking, including:
  ► Medicines prescribed by any of your doctors
  ► Herbs
  ► Vitamins
  ► Over-the-counter medicines

This handout is for informational purposes only. Talk with your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

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How does my doctor decide my chemotherapy dose?
To determine your treatment dose, your doctor will review the following: your weight, your medicines, how well your liver and kidneys are working, and any other health problems you have. You will receive a treatment every 3 weeks. The doctor or nurse practitioner will meet with you before each dose of brentuximab vedotin.

Should I eat or drink before my treatment?
It is best to eat a small meal before getting your chemotherapy. Drinking plenty of non-caffeinated fluids may also be helpful. However, if you have been told to limit fluids, check with your doctor about how much you can drink.

How will my treatment be given?
Brentuximab vedotin is given directly into your blood stream through a tube (IV) placed in your arm or chest. This treatment will take about 30 minutes.

What are the side effects of this treatment?
Every person responds differently to treatment. Some of the more common side effects of this chemotherapy are:

- Numbness, tingling or burning in your hands or feet
- Nausea and/or vomiting lasting for several days
- Fatigue
- Diarrhea
- Low white blood cell count (may increase your risk for infection)
- Low hemoglobin (may cause you to have less energy and tire more easily)
- Low platelet count (may cause you to bleed more easily or longer than normal and have more bruising)
- **Signs of an allergic reaction, including:**
  - Difficulty breathing, wheezing, chest pain or tightness
  - Swelling in your face, lips, tongue, or throat
  - Rash
  - Shaking or chills
When should I call my doctor?

You should call your doctor **right away** if you have any of the following signs or symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) or higher

A fever can be life-threatening if not treated. Your doctor may ask you to go to the hospital.

- Chills, sore throat, cough or a wound that does not get better
- Open sores in your mouth
- Nausea that prevents you from eating or drinking
- Vomiting even after you have taken your anti-nausea medicine
- Bleeding or bruising, including bloody or black stools or blood in your urine
- Diarrhea (4 or more loose stools in 24 hours)
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Is there anything else I should know about this treatment?

- Chemotherapy may make it harder for your body to fight infections. Wash your hands often and stay away from people who are sick.
- This treatment requires special precautions to prevent the chemotherapy drugs from coming into contact (through blood, urine, bowel movements, vomit and vaginal or seminal fluids) with others. Your chemotherapy nurse will give you guidelines to follow for 48 hours after receiving chemotherapy.
- Chemotherapy can change how your body reacts to vaccines. Talk to your doctor before getting any vaccines.
- You should drink 8 to 10 eight-ounce glasses of non-caffeinated fluid each day throughout your treatment. This is important to keep you hydrated while you are receiving chemotherapy.
- This treatment may cause women to stop having menstrual cycles. Depending on your age, your menstrual cycles may or may not return.
- It may be difficult to get pregnant even after the chemotherapy is finished.
- This treatment may affect your ability to have children. Talk to your doctor before getting chemotherapy if you are planning to have children in the future.

**Brentuximab Vedotin**
For more information about cancer, chemotherapy, side effects or how to care for yourself during treatment, refer to your Chemotherapy and You book, or ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

You may also find it helpful to watch The James Patient Education videos at http://cancer.osu.edu/patientedvideos to help you learn tips for managing treatment side effects.