

# Pertuzumab, Trastuzumab and Hyaluronidase

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## What is Pertuzumab (per-TOO-zoo-mab), Trastuzumab (tras-TOO-zoo-mab) and hyaluronidase and how does it work?

Pertuzumab is a type of targeted cancer therapy called a “monoclonal antibody”. Trastuzumab is also a monoclonal antibody. Trastuzumab and Pertuzumab seek out cancer cells and attach to the HER2 receptors, to prevent the cells from dividing and making new cancer cells. They also fight cancer cells by stimulating your immune system. Hyaluronidase is a type of medicine that allows Pertuzumab and Trastuzumab to go into the bloodstream when given as an injection under the skin. Another name for this combination medicine is Phesgo.

## What should I tell my doctor before my treatment?

Talk to your doctor about the following:

- If you have ever had chemotherapy or anti-cancer treatment and the names of the medicines you were given.
- If you have ever had heart or lung problems.
- If you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant. Your doctor will talk with you about birth control when you take these medicines.
- If you are breastfeeding.
- If you have been told that you need to start a new medicine.
- Other medicines/pills you take, including:
  - ▶ Medicines ordered by any of your doctors
  - ▶ Herbs
  - ▶ Vitamins
  - ▶ Over-the-counter medicines

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

## **How does my doctor decide my treatment dose?**

The treatment dose is the same for each patient. You will be given 1 dose every 3 weeks. This treatment may be given with other chemotherapy or cancer medicines. You will see your doctor or nurse practitioner once every 3 to 6 weeks during your treatment.

## **Should I eat or drink before my treatment?**

It is best to eat a small meal and drink plenty of fluids before your treatment begins. If you have been told to limit fluids, check with your doctor about how much you can drink.

## **How will my treatment be given?**

Pertuzumab, Trastuzumab and Hyaluronidase is given as an injection under the skin in the thigh. Your injections will alternate between the left and right thigh. Your first injection will be given over 8 minutes, then your future injections will be given over 5 minutes.

## **What are the side effects of this treatment?**

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

- Diarrhea
- Redness, swelling, irritation at the injection site
- Flu-like symptoms: chills, fever, headache, body aches and sweating (these are more common with your first few doses)
- Allergic reactions to the treatment including: difficulty breathing, hives, or swelling of your face
- Fatigue or weakness
- Nausea
- Rash or other skin changes such as dryness or itching
- Cough

## 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)
- Changes in your heartbeat
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Swelling in your feet or ankles
- Fast weight gain
- Muscle or joint aches and pain
- Severe tiredness, weakness or pain
- **Signs of an allergic reaction, including:**
  - ▶ Difficulty breathing, wheezing, chest pain or tightness
  - ▶ Swelling in your face, lips, tongue, or throat
  - ▶ Rash

## Is there anything else I should know about this treatment?

- Pertuzumab, Trastuzumab and Hyaluronidase may cause problems with the pumping of your heart. Your doctor will check your heart before you start this medicine and while you are getting treatment.
- Some patients may have an allergic reaction while taking this medicine. If an allergic reaction happens during your treatment, the nurse will give you medicine to help manage the reaction. Extra precautions will be taken when your next treatment is given, and you will be monitored for 15 to 30 minutes after future injections.
- **Do not get pregnant or breastfeed while taking this medicine or for 7 months after your last treatment. Tell your doctor right away if you become pregnant.**
- This treatment may change how your body reacts to vaccines. Talk to your doctor before getting any vaccines.
- It is important to keep hydrated during treatment. Unless told otherwise by your doctor, drink 8 to 10 cups of non-caffeinated fluid each day.

For more information about cancer, cancer treatment, side effects or how to care for yourself during treatment, 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.