Trametinib

for Gynecological cancer

About your treatment

Trametinib (Mekinist tablets) are kinase inhibitors that affect how cancer cells signal and reduce their ability to grow. Take Trametinib 1 time per day, without a break. You will be told the number of tablets per time by your doctor or nurse. They also let you know if you should change anything in the dosage During the treatment, your blood samples and any side effects are monitored.

How to take the medicines

Trametinib: Swallow the tablets whole with water. Do not take the tablets with food. Leave it for at least 2 hours after a meal, and do not eat anything for at least 1 hour after taking the tablets. If you miss a dose, take it only if it is more than 12 hours until the next dose. Read more in the package insert

Side effects - symptoms and tips

The side effects we list here are the most common and important. They can vary greatly from person to person, and even from time to time. Side effects may determine your dose or require you to stop taking the medicine.

Tell your doctor or nurse if you have any side effects. Often the symptoms can be prevented or alleviated.

Problems with stomach and intestines

Diarrhoea and nausea are common, but you may also become constipated.

You can also get inflammation of the intestines (colitis). It can cause severe diarrhoea, stomach pain, blood in your stools or dark and smelly stools.

Fever

You may get a fever. It may be a side effect of medicines or be an infection.

Tips: Drink a lot, a few glasses more than usual per day. Rest. Contact your doctor to discuss whether you should take antipyretics.

Acne-like skin problems

You may get acne-like rashes on your face and upper body. You may also experience itching, cracking of the skin and inflammation around the nails. Talk to your nurse if you develop skin problems - you may need medication.

Tip: Apply a moisturising cream to your whole body several times a day. Use bath oil instead of soap. Avoid sunbathing. Wear a hat and full-coverage clothing. Lubricate parts of the body not covered by clothing with sunscreen that has a high SPF and UVA protection.

Eye problems

You may get red eyes with stinging and pain. You may also experience blurred vision, dry eyes and become more sensitive to light. In rare cases, you may lose part of your field of vision, which may be due to a retinal detachment or blockage of a vessel in the eye. You should contact your doctor immediately.

Tip: If your eyes sting and feel dry, use lubricating eye drops available from pharmacies.

Bleeding

You may have an increased risk of bleeding. For example, you may bleed easily from your nose or mouth. If you get a cut on your skin, you may bleed longer than usual. Surgical wounds may heal more slowly.

Tips: Be careful not to cut yourself. You can stop nosebleeds by squeezing the soft parts of your nose for 10 minutes. If this doesn't stop it, contact your doctor. Be attentive to oral hygiene, and use a soft toothbrush and mild toothpaste. Be careful with floss and toothpicks. Inform your dentist or other health care provider of your cancer treatment when you visit.

Problems with the heart

The treatment carries a certain risk of cardiac effects. You may have symptoms such as chest pain, an unusual heart rhythm, palpitations, shortness of breath or swollen legs. ECG and/or ultrasound of the heart are sometimes included in checks on heart function.

Contact your clinic immediately at:

- fever above 38 degrees, or temperature below 36 degrees
- severe diarrhoea, or diarrhoea combined with fever
- chest pain or difficulty breathing
- nosebleeds or other bleeding that you can't stop
- skin rash on most of the body, or skin rash with pain
- sudden deterioration, regardless of symptoms
- chest pain or difficulty breathing, call 112

Common advice

It is important not to get pregnant or make someone pregnant while you are being treated with cancer drugs, as the drugs can affect the foetus. Therefore, use safe, non-hormonal contraceptives during treatment and for at least 90 days after the end of treatment, as the drug may render the contraceptive pill ineffective.

General information about cancer

Useful information about cancer is available from both 1177 Vårdguiden and Cancerfonden:

www.1177.se

www.cancerfonden.se