

**Brentuximab-vedotin**

for Lymphoma

**Regimen schedule**

Next course of treatment, day 22

Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Brentuximab vedotin	X																				

**About your treatment**

Brentuximab vedotin is an antibody that inhibits the growth of cancer cells.

Each course is 21 days. Day 1, you get an IV. There is then a break of 20 days before a new course of treatment starts. During treatment, your blood tests and any side effects will be monitored.

**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 is common. You may also become constipated.

**Tip:** Drink a lot, a few glasses more than usual per day. If you have diarrhoea, avoid fatty, spicy and high-fibre foods. If you're constipated, try high-fibre foods and exercise. Talk to your doctor if you get diarrhoea or constipation - you may need medication.

**Nausea and taste changes**

There is a risk that the treatment will make you feel unwell. If necessary, you will be given anti-nausea medication.

**Tips:** Sometimes it feels better to eat lighter food and small portions. For example, try skim milk, yoghurt, omelettes, sandwiches and hot or cold soups. Drinking a little extra between meals can reduce nausea.

**Infection susceptibility**

You will be susceptible to infection after treatment. This is because the level of white blood cells drops. Before each treatment, blood samples are taken to see if the blood cells have recovered. If the values are too low, the treatment must be postponed.

**Tips:** Try to avoid close contact with people who have a cold or stomach illness, for example. Wash your hands often with soap and water. Hand sanitizer can be useful.

**Problems with skin, hair and nails**

Skin often becomes dry and more sensitive to the sun. You may also lose hair or your hair may change texture. Nails can become brittle.

**Tip:** When washing your skin, be gentle and use mild soap. Lubricate often with moisturiser. Wear covering clothing to protect against the sun, and sunscreen on parts of your body that you can't cover. Wear gloves for work that is dirty or abrasive for your hands. If your nails are bothering you, you can use nail polish and brush your cuticles with oil or apply a moisturiser.

## **Numbness and tingling - sensory disturbances**

You may experience numbness and tingling in your hands and feet, and your fine motor skills may be impaired. For example, you may find it difficult to press buttons or walk. Symptoms usually go away, but not completely in everyone. Tell your doctor or nurse if you have numbness or tingling in your hands and feet.

## **Pain in muscles and joints**

Pain in muscles and joints is common.

## **Contact your clinic immediately at:**

- fever over 38 degrees or if your temperature drops below 36 degrees
- severe diarrhoea, or diarrhoea combined with fever
- 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 contraceptives. Sometimes double protection is needed, as side effects such as diarrhoea or the direct effect of cancer drugs may mean that the contraceptive pill is not enough protection on its own.

## **General information about cancer**

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

[www.1177.se](http://www.1177.se)

[www.cancerfonden.se](http://www.cancerfonden.se)

## **Notes**

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