

**Rituximab-Lenalidomid enligt Augment, kur 2-5**

for Haematological malignancy

**Regimen schedule**

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

**Next course of treatment, day 29**

Day	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Rituximab							
Lenalidomid							

**About your treatment**

Rituximab is an antibody that inhibits the growth of cancer cells. Lenalidomide boosts your immune system to affect the growth and division of cancer cells.

Each course is 28 days. Day 1, you get an IV. Lenalidomide is taken as capsules once a day on days 1-21. After that, there is a 7-day break, before a new course starts.

During treatment, your blood tests and any side effects will be monitored.

**How to take the medicines**

Lenalidomide (Revlimid): Swallow the capsules whole with water, with or without a meal, at about the same time each day. If you miss a dose, take it only if it is more than 12 hours before your next dose.

See also information in the package leaflet.

**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.

**Fatigue**

Fatigue is common. You may feel low in energy and never rested. Your memory may deteriorate, and you may find it harder to concentrate and solve problems. It can make you feel down, stressed and anxious. You may also find it difficult to socialise. Fatigue may persist for a long time after treatment.

**Tips:** Try to exercise and move around. It's the only thing known to help with fatigue.

## **Nausea and taste changes**

You may feel unwell from the treatment. You will therefore be given anti-nausea medication in conjunction with the treatment. The medicines may cause constipation. You can get different varieties depending on how you feel. The taste of food and drink may be altered by the treatment.

**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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **Pain in muscles and bones**

Pain, tenderness and weakness in the muscles are common.

**Tips:** Can be relieved with common painkillers.

## **Headache**

Headaches are 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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