Tebentafusp underhållsbehandling, kur 2 osv.

for Malignant melanoma and other skin cancers

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
Tebentafusp	X							X							X						

About your treatment

Tebentafusp is an antibody that activates your immune system to attack the cancer cells. Each treatment cycle lasts 21 days. You receive infusions on days 1, 8, and 15.

Side effects - symptoms and tips

Side effects - cytokine release syndrome (CRS) The side effects can be serious and are due to the medicine activating immune cells that can produce cytokines, cytokine release syndrome (CRS). The greatest risk of side effects is during the first treatments. The first times you receive treatment, you will have to stay in hospital for observation overnight. Symptoms of CRS are low blood pressure, dizziness and feeling unsteady, fever and chills, headache, nausea and vomiting. In addition to the acute side effects, you may experience other side effects. The ones we list here are the most common and important. They can vary greatly between different people. Tell your doctor or nurse if you have side effects. Often the symptoms can be prevented or alleviated. Side effects can come late, several months after the treatment has ended. In that case, contact your clinic anyway!

Fatigue

Fatigue is common in connection with cancer and its treatment. The severity of the symptoms and their duration vary from person to person. You may continue to feel tired long after treatment has ended. This type of extreme exhaustion is known as fatigue—a tiredness that does not always improve with rest or sleep. Many describe fatigue as a total lack of energy, and it can occur even without physical exertion. Your ability to remember, concentrate, and solve problems may be impaired. Fatigue is sometimes associated with feelings of resignation, stress, anxiety, and depression. Tip: Try to stay active. Physical activity often helps alleviate tiredness and fatigue. Find a balance between activity, rest, and sleep that works for you.

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.

Skin problems

Dry skin and rashes with or without itching are common. Some skin conditions can be made worse by treatment, such as psoriasis and rosacea. You may also get inflammation of the skin (dermatitis), which in rare cases can lead to a severe skin reaction with watery sores.

Tip for mild itching: When washing your skin, be gentle and use unscented soap or shower oil. Lubricate with moisturiser.

Dry cough and difficulty breathing

New symptoms of dry cough, shortness of breath and difficulty breathing may be due to a special inflammation of the lungs and airways (pneumonitis).

Hormone changes

You may experience headaches, fatigue, depression, hot flashes, heart palpitations, decreased sexual desire and behavioural changes. You may also experience visual disturbances, such as blurred vision and double vision, and pain behind the eyes. Symptoms may be due to inflammation of the thyroid, adrenal or pituitary glands.

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.

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

Sense and awareness

Your strength or sensation in your arms and legs may be reduced, but this is rare. This may be due to inflammation of the nerve pathways (peripheral neuropathy).

Consciousness may be affected in rare cases, if the inflammation affects the brain instead (encephalitis).

Contact your clinic immediately at:

Acute

• Call 112 in case of persistent acute chest pain, pressure on the chest or difficulty breathing/shortness of breath

Contact your reception immediately at:

- Fever (temp above 38 degrees) or at a temperature below 36 degrees
- Sudden deterioration regardless of symptom
- Increased number of stools/diarrhea with or without stomach pain, bloody or black stools
- New onset dry cough and shortness of breath
- Severe itching, blisters, oozing sores and peeling skin.
- If you or your relatives feel that you are changed, confused or that consciousness is affected.
- Headache, unusual fatigue, pain behind the eyes and visual disturbances.
- Dark foamy urine or very cloudy urine.
- Severe muscle or joint pain or an effect on strength or feeling in the arms and legs
- Yellow skin color

Contact your clinic before vaccination

If you need to be vaccinated, talk to your doctor or nurse beforehand.

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

www.cancerfonden.se