Ramucirumab

for Gastrointestinal cancer

Regimen schedule

Next course of treatment, day 15

Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Ramucirumab	X													

About your treatment

Ramucirumab (Cyramza) is an antibody that inhibits the growth of cancer cells.

Each course is 14 days. Day 1, you get an IV. After that, there is a break of 13 days, before a new course 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.

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.

Hypertension

High blood pressure is common. Your blood pressure will be monitored during treatment, and you may need medication.

Protein in the urine

You may get protein in your urine. However, it does not cause any symptoms. You will be asked to provide a urine sample to check this.

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 clinic immediately at:

Fever (temp above 38 degrees) or at a temperature below 36 degrees

Sudden deterioration regardless of symptoms

Nosebleeds or other bleeding you cannot stop or bruising over large parts of the body

Severe new abdominal pain

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