Enzalutamid - Talazoparib

for Urological cancer

About your treatment

Enzalutamide (Xtandi) is an antihormonal agent that blocks the effect of testosterone (the male sex hormone), preventing cancer cells from multiplying. Talazoparib (Talzenna) blocks proteins that regulate the growth and division of cancer cells, thereby slowing them down. Enzalutamide is taken as tablets, and talazoparib is taken as capsules, once daily without interruption. During treatment, your blood test results and any potential side effects will be monitored.

How to take the medicines

Swallow tablets and capsules with or without food at approximately the same time each day. If you miss a dose or vomit, take your usual dose at the next scheduled time. Do not use dietary supplements containing curcumin, as this may increase side effects. Curcumin is found in turmeric. Read more in the patient information 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 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.

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 stomach and intestines

Diarrhoea is quite common.

Tip: Drink a lot, a few glasses more than usual per day. If you have diarrhoea, avoid fatty, spicy and high-fibre foods. Talk to your doctor if you get diarrhoea - 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.

Fallopian tubes

Hot flashes and sweating are common.

Tips: Try to exercise and move around.

Pain in muscles and bones

Pain, tenderness and weakness in the muscles are common.

Tips: Can be relieved with common painkillers.

Problems with the heart

The treatment carries a certain risk of cardiac effects. You may experience symptoms such as an unusual heart rhythm or palpitations.

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.

Headache

Headaches are common.

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 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