Bevacizumab-CAPOX

for Gastrointestinal cancer

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
Bevacizumab	X																				
Oxaliplatin	X																				
Kapecitabin Morning dose	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Kapecitabin Evening dose	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							

About your treatment

Bevacizumab is an antibody that inhibits the growth of cancer cells. CAPOX is an abbreviation for capecitabine and oxaliplatin, both of which are cytostatics. Each course is 21 days. You take capecitabine as tablets starting with the evening dose on day 1 and then 2 times a day (morning and evening), 12 hours apart, from day 2 to 14. You take the last dose in the morning of day 15. After that there is a break for 6 days , before a new course starts. Your doctor or nurse will tell you how many tablets you should take at a time. On day 1, you also receive a drip with bevacizumab and oxaliplatin. During the treatment, your blood samples and any side effects are monitored.

How to take the medicines

Swallow the tablets whole with water. Take the tablets 15-30 minutes after a meal. If you miss a dose or vomit, take your usual dose at the next opportunity.

Read more 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 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.

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.

Problems with hands and feet

It is common to get redness, dry flaky skin and swelling on the hands and soles of the feet. It can develop into blisters, cracks and sores. You may also get sore, tingling and numbness in your hands and feet. Contact your doctor immediately if you experience these symptoms.

Tip: Avoid exposing hands and feet to high heat, such as showering or washing dishes with very hot water. Protect your hands with gloves, for example when gardening. Also avoid exposing your hands and feet to vibration or abrasion, such as when using a drill for hours or running for miles.

Numbness and tingling - sensory disturbances

Oxaliplatin can cause nerve damage (peripheral neuropathy). You may therefore experience numbness and tingling in your hands and feet, and your fine motor skills may be impaired. Symptoms may be triggered by cold. The 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.

Tips: Wear gloves when it's cold outside, and to protect against the cold in the fridge and freezer.

Feeling of discomfort in the throat

During or after treatment, your throat may feel tight and it may be difficult to breathe. The feeling usually comes when you get out into the cold air or have a cold drink. Breathing may become wheezy and hoarse. Although the sensation is unpleasant, it is short-lived and will pass without treatment.

Tips: In cold weather - pull a scarf over your nose and mouth. If it occurs: breathe calmly and drink something warm.

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.

Problems with the heart

The treatment carries a certain risk of cardiac effects. You may have symptoms such as chest pain, an unusual heart rhythm, palpitations, shortness of breath or swollen legs. ECG and/or ultrasound of the heart are sometimes included in checks on heart function.

Blood clot

You may have an increased risk of blood clots. You can get a blood clot in a leg or arm, and it can hurt, and cause swelling or redness.

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 mouth and mucous membranes

The mucous membranes of your nose, mouth, eyes and abdomen may be affected by your treatment. For example, you may have nosebleeds and a runny nose. In the mouth, you may experience dryness, redness, burning and sores. You can also get fungus, which turns the lining of your mouth red or gives it a white coating. Eyes may become dry and watery. The mucous membranes in the lower abdomen can also become dry.

Tip: If you have a dry mouth, use saliva stimulants available in pharmacies. Rinsing your mouth with Vichy water can prevent fungus. Be attentive to oral hygiene, and use a soft toothbrush and mild toothpaste. Be careful with floss and toothpicks. Inform your dentist of your cancer treatment when you visit. Avoid contact lenses if you have eye problems. Women can use oestrogen cream, emollient cream or oil to treat dry mucous membranes in the lower abdomen.

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
- Severe nausea or burning in the mouth that makes it difficult for you to eat and drink
- Severe diarrhea that does not decrease with stopping medication
- Nosebleeds or other bleeding you cannot stop or bruising over large parts of the body
- Severe new abdominal pain

Common advice

Cancer drugs are usually excreted in the urine up to 7 days after treatment. Therefore, you should avoid splashing urine. Sit down when you pee. When finished, close the toilet lid and flush 2 times. 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. If you are a man, use a condom during sexual intercourse within 72 hours of treatment, as cytostatic drugs are also excreted through the seminal fluid.

General information about cancer

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

www.1177.se

www.cancerfonden.se