Cetuximab 14 dagar

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
Cetuximab	X													

About your treatment

Cetuximab (Erbitux) 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.

Acne-like skin problems

You may get acne-like rashes on your face and upper body. You may also experience itching, cracking of the skin and inflammation around the nails. Talk to your nurse if you develop skin problems - you may need medication.

Tip: Apply a moisturising cream to your whole body several times a day. Use bath oil instead of soap. Avoid sunbathing. Wear a hat and full-coverage clothing. Lubricate parts of the body not covered by clothing with sunscreen that has a high SPF and UVA protection.

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.

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.

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

Call your clinic immediately at:

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

Sudden deterioration regardless of symptoms

Severe diarrhea that does not decrease with stopping drugs

New severe fatigue and/or muscle weakness or involuntary muscle cramps

New skin rashes over large parts of the body

Painful skin redness/rash/nail changes

Liquifying rash with yellowish crusts

Painful or inflamed eyes, sensitivity to light, blurred vision or altered vision

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