

## Ado-Trastuzumab Emtansine

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### What is Ado-Trastuzumab Emtansine (a-do-tras-TU-zoo-mab-em-TAN-seen) and how does it work?

Ado-Trastuzumab Emtansine is a type of targeted cancer therapy called an “antibody-drug conjugate.” Another name for this medicine is Kadcyła. This medicine finds cancer cells in your body and attaches to the HER2 receptors. Once inside the cancer cell, chemotherapy is released to prevent the cell from dividing and making new cancer cells.

### What should I tell my doctor before I start this treatment?

Talk to your doctor about the following:

- If you have ever had chemotherapy or anti-cancer treatment and the names of the medicines you were given.
- If you have ever had heart, lung, or liver problems.
- If you are allergic to mice.
- If you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant. Your doctor will talk with you about birth control when you take this medicine.
- If you are breastfeeding.
- If you have been told that you need to start a new medicine.
- The medicines/pills you are taking, including:
  - ▶ Medicines ordered by any of your doctors
  - ▶ Herbs
  - ▶ Vitamins
  - ▶ Over-the-counter medicines

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**This handout is for informational purposes only. Talk with your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.**

## **How does my doctor decide my treatment dose?**

To determine your treatment dose, your doctor will review your weight, the medicines you take, how well your heart and liver work and any other health problems you have.

You will receive a treatment dose 1 time every 3 weeks. You will continue this treatment as long as you do not have too many side effects and the medicine keeps your cancer from getting worse. You will see your doctor or nurse practitioner before each chemotherapy treatment.

## **Can I eat or drink before my treatment?**

It is best to eat a small meal before getting your treatment. It is important to drink 8 to 10 cups of non-caffeinated fluids each day to stay hydrated. If you have been told to limit fluids, check with your doctor about how much you can drink.

## **How will my treatment be given?**

Thirty to sixty minutes before your treatment begins, you will be given medicine to prevent nausea, vomiting or an allergic reaction.

This medicine is given directly into your blood stream through an intravenous (IV) catheter. An IV catheter is a long, thin, flexible tube placed in a vein in your arm or chest. This medicine comes in a bag with attached tubing. Your nurse will connect the tubing to a pump.

Your first treatment will take 90 minutes. If you do not have any problems with your first treatment, then your future treatments will only take 30 minutes.

## **What are the side effects of this treatment?**

Every person responds differently to treatment. Some of the more common side effects of this chemotherapy are:

- Numbness, tingling, and pain in your hands and feet
- Fatigue or weakness
- Mouth pain or open sores in your mouth
- Muscle or joint aches and pain
- Nausea or vomiting
- Constipation
- Diarrhea

- Cough
- Rash
- Headache
- Eye irritation or vision changes
- Low white blood cell count (may increase your risk for infection)
- Low hemoglobin (may cause you to have less energy and tire more easily)
- Low platelet count (may cause you to bleed more easily or longer than normal and have more bruising)
- Nosebleeds
- Flu-like symptoms, such as chills, fever, headache, body aches and sweating
- Low potassium levels. Your doctor will check the amount of potassium in your blood before each treatment.
- Decrease in liver function. Your doctor will check how well your liver is working before each treatment.

## When should I call my doctor?

You should call your doctor right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms:

- **Fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) or higher**

**A fever can be life-threatening if not treated. Your doctor may ask you to go to the hospital.**

- Chills, sore throat, cough or a wound that does not get better
- Numbness, tingling, or pain that makes you unable to do simple tasks such as walking, buttoning your shirt or holding a cup
- Open sores in your mouth
- Nausea that makes you unable to eat or drink
- Any vomiting, even if you only vomit once
- Skin redness or blisters at the site where your chemotherapy was given
- Bleeding or bruising, including bloody or black stools or blood in your urine
- Diarrhea (4 or more loose stools in 24 hours)
- Changes in your heartbeat
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

- Hives or swelling of your face
- Pain in your chest
- Swelling in your feet or ankles
- Fast weight gain
- Yellowing of your skin or eyes

### **Is there anything else I should know about this treatment?**

- This medicine may cause problems with the pumping of your heart. Your doctor will check your heart before you start this medicine and every several months while you are getting treatment.
- Some patients may have an allergic reaction while the treatment is being given. If an allergic reaction does happen, your nurse will give you medicine to help manage the reaction and extra precautions will be taken when your next treatment is given.
- This medicine may cause changes in your eyes, such as increased tearing, dryness, inflammation or blurred vision. It is important to talk with your doctor if you have these symptoms.
- Chemotherapy may make it harder for your body to fight infections. Wash your hands often and stay away from people who are sick.
- This treatment requires special precautions to prevent the medicine from coming into contact (through blood, urine, bowel movements, vomit, and vaginal or seminal fluids) with others. Your nurse or pharmacist will give you instructions to follow for 48 hours after your last treatment dose.
- Chemotherapy can change how your body reacts to vaccines. Talk to your doctor before you get any vaccines.
- Unless told otherwise, drink 8 to 10 cups of non-caffeinated fluid each day to stay hydrated.
- **Do not get pregnant or breastfeed** while taking this medicine or for 6 months after your last treatment. Tell your doctor right away if you become pregnant.

For more information about cancer, chemotherapy, side effects or how to care for yourself during treatment, refer to your **Chemotherapy and You** book, or ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

**Go to this video link: <http://cancer.osu.edu/patientedvideos> to learn more about your cancer diagnosis, treatment and care.**