

RiTUXImab (Lexi-Drugs)**Rituximab (Patient Education - Adult Medication)**

You must carefully read the "Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer" below in order to understand and correctly use this information

Pronunciation

(ri TUK si mab)

Brand Names: US

Riabni; Rituxan; Ruxience; Truxima

Brand Names: Canada

Riabni; Rituxan; Riximyo; Ruxience; Truxima

Warning

- Very bad and sometimes deadly side effects have rarely happened during and within 24 hours after the infusion. Tell your doctor if you have any bad effects during or within 24 hours after the infusion.
- A severe skin reaction (Stevens-Johnson syndrome/toxic epidermal necrolysis) may happen. It can cause severe health problems that may not go away, and sometimes death. Get medical help right away if you have signs like red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin (with or without fever); red or irritated eyes; or sores in your mouth, throat, nose, or eyes.
- If you have had hepatitis B before or carry the virus, this drug can cause the virus to become active. This can lead to very bad and sometimes deadly liver problems. You will be tested for hepatitis B before starting this drug. You will need to watch for signs of hepatitis while taking this drug and for several months after stopping it. Talk with your doctor.
- A very bad brain problem called progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) has happened with this drug. It may cause disability or can be deadly. Tell your doctor right away if you have signs like confusion, memory problems, low mood (depression), change in the way you act, change in strength on 1 side is greater than the other, trouble speaking or thinking, change in balance, or change in eyesight.

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat types of leukemia and lymphoma.
- It is used to treat rheumatoid arthritis.
- It is used to treat granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA; used to be known as Wegener's granulomatosis).
- It is used to treat microscopic polyangiitis.
- It is used to treat a skin problem called pemphigus vulgaris.
- It may be given to you for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?

- If you are allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.
- If you are allergic to mouse proteins, talk with the doctor.

- If you have an infection.
- If you have active hepatitis B infection.
- If you have had a vaccine in the past month.
- If you are breast-feeding. Do not breast-feed while you take this drug or within 6 months after your last dose.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take this drug with all of your drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug without checking with your doctor.

What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?

For all uses of this drug:

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Have blood work checked as you have been told by the doctor. Talk with the doctor.
- You may have more of a chance of getting an infection. Wash hands often. Stay away from people with infections, colds, or flu. Some infections have been very bad and even deadly.
- Talk with your doctor before getting any vaccines. Use of some vaccines with this drug may either raise the chance of an infection or make the vaccine not work as well.
- Make sure you are up to date with all your vaccines before treatment with this drug.
- Heart problems like heart failure and abnormal heartbeats have happened with this drug. Sometimes, these heart problems have been deadly. Call your doctor right away if you have a fast, slow, or abnormal heartbeat; severe dizziness or passing out; or shortness of breath, a big weight gain, or swelling in the arms or legs.
- If you are 65 or older, use this drug with care. You could have more side effects.
- This drug may cause harm to an unborn baby. A pregnancy test will be done before you start this drug to show that you are NOT pregnant.
- If you may become pregnant, you must use birth control while taking this drug and for some time after the last dose. Ask your doctor how long to use birth control. If you get pregnant, call your doctor right away.
- If you used this drug when you were pregnant, tell your baby's doctor.

Cancer treatment:

- Patients with cancer who take this drug may be at a greater risk of getting a severe health problem called tumor lysis syndrome (TLS). This may lead to death. Call your doctor right away if you have a fast or abnormal heartbeat; any passing out; trouble passing urine; muscle weakness or cramps; upset stomach, throwing up, diarrhea, or not able to eat; or feel sluggish.
- People who took this drug with some cancer drugs have had bowel block or tears in the bowel. Sometimes this has been deadly. Call your doctor right away if you have very bad stomach pain; very bad constipation; throwing up, throwing up blood, or throw up that looks like coffee grounds; or black, tarry, or bloody stools.

What are some side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?

WARNING/CAUTION: Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Signs of infection like fever, chills, very bad sore throat, ear or sinus pain, cough, more sputum or change in color of sputum, pain with passing urine, mouth sores, or wound that will not heal.
- Signs of high or low blood pressure like very bad headache or dizziness, passing out, or change in eyesight.
- Signs of liver problems like dark urine, feeling tired, not hungry, upset stomach or stomach pain, light-colored stools, throwing up, or yellow skin or eyes.
- Signs of high blood sugar like confusion, feeling sleepy, more thirsty, more hungry, passing urine more often, flushing, fast breathing, or breath that smells like fruit.
- Chest pain or pressure.
- Dizziness.
- Any unexplained bruising or bleeding.
- Swelling.
- Kidney problems have happened with this drug, especially in people with lymphoma. Sometimes, these have been deadly. Call your doctor right away if you are unable to pass urine or if you have blood in the urine or a change in the amount of urine passed.
- Some people have had lung problems with this drug. Sometimes, this has been deadly. Call your doctor right away if you have signs of lung problems like shortness of breath or other trouble breathing, cough that is new or worse, or fever.

What are some other side effects of this drug?

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

- Feeling tired or weak.
- Headache.
- Upset stomach or throwing up.
- Stomach pain or diarrhea.
- Runny or stuffy nose.
- Muscle spasm.
- Back, muscle, or joint pain.
- Trouble sleeping.
- Night sweats.
- Throat irritation.
- Flushing.
- Anxiety.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

How is this drug best taken?

Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

- It is given as an infusion into a vein over a period of time.
- Other drugs will be given with this drug to help avoid side effects.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

- Call your doctor to find out what to do.

How do I store and/or throw out this drug?

- If you need to store this drug at home, talk with your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist about how to store it.

General drug facts

- If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.
- Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else's drugs.
- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

Last Reviewed Date

2021-07-15

Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer: This information should not be used to decide whether or not to take this medicine or any other medicine. Only the healthcare provider has the knowledge and training to decide which medicines are right for a specific patient. This information does not endorse any medicine as safe, effective, or approved for treating any patient or health condition. This is only a brief summary of general information about this medicine. It does NOT include all information about the possible uses, directions, warnings, precautions, interactions, adverse effects, or risks that may apply to this medicine. This information is not specific medical advice and does not replace information you receive from the healthcare provider. You must talk with the healthcare provider for complete information about the risks and benefits of using this medicine. The use of this information is governed by the Lexicomp End User License Agreement, available at <https://www.wolterskluwer.com/en/solutions/lexicomp/about/eula>.

© 2021 UpToDate, Inc. and its affiliates and/or licensors. All Rights Reserved.

Bendamustine (Lexi-Drugs)

Bendamustine (Patient Education - Adult Medication)

You must carefully read the "Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer" below in order to understand and correctly use this information

Pronunciation

(ben da MUS teen)

Brand Names: US

Belrapzo; Bendeka; Treanda

Brand Names: Canada

NAT-Bendamustine; Treanda

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat types of leukemia and lymphoma.
- It may be given to you for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?

- If you are allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.
- If you have any of these health problems: Kidney disease or liver disease.
- If your sex partner may get pregnant. Use birth control while taking this drug and for some time after the last dose. Ask your doctor how long to use birth control. If your partner gets pregnant, call the doctor right away.
- If you are pregnant or may be pregnant. This drug may cause harm to an unborn baby. A pregnancy test will be done before you start this drug to show that you are NOT pregnant. If you may become pregnant, you must use birth control while taking this drug and for some time after the last dose. Ask your doctor how long to use birth control. If you get pregnant, call your doctor right away.
- If you are breast-feeding. Do not breast-feed while you take this drug and for 1 week after your last dose.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take this drug with all of your drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug without checking with your doctor.

What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Avoid driving and doing other tasks or actions that call for you to be alert until you see how this drug affects you.
- If you smoke, talk with your doctor.
- You may have more of a chance of getting an infection. Wash hands often. Stay away from people with infections, colds, or flu. Some infections have been very bad and even deadly.

- You may bleed more easily. Be careful and avoid injury. Use a soft toothbrush and an electric razor. Rarely, some bleeding problems have been deadly.
- Some patients have very bad side effects during the infusion. Tell your doctor if you have any bad effects during the infusion.
- Bone marrow problems like myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) have happened in people who were treated with this drug. Some cancers like leukemia have also happened. It is not known if this drug caused this effect. If you have questions, talk with the doctor.
- Have your skin checked. Tell your doctor if you have any skin changes like a new wart, skin sore or reddish bump that bleeds or does not heal, or a change in the color or size of a mole.
- Very bad and sometimes deadly liver problems have happened with this drug. Call your doctor right away if you have signs of liver problems like dark urine, feeling tired, not hungry, upset stomach or stomach pain, light-colored stools, throwing up, or yellow skin or eyes.
- Heart problems like heart failure have happened in people taking this drug. Sometimes, this has been deadly. Call your doctor right away if you have chest pain or pressure, a heartbeat that does not feel normal, shortness of breath, a big weight gain, or swelling in the arms or legs.
- A severe and sometimes deadly reaction has happened. Most of the time, this reaction has signs like fever, rash, or swollen glands with problems in body organs like the liver, kidney, blood, heart, muscles and joints, or lungs. If you have questions, talk with the doctor.
- A severe skin reaction (Stevens-Johnson syndrome/toxic epidermal necrolysis) may happen. It can cause severe health problems that may not go away, and sometimes death. Get medical help right away if you have signs like red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin (with or without fever); red or irritated eyes; or sores in your mouth, throat, nose, or eyes.
- A severe and sometimes deadly brain problem (progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy or PML) has happened. Most of the time, this happened when this drug was used with rituximab or obinutuzumab. Tell your doctor right away if you have signs like confusion, memory problems, depression, change in behavior, weakness on 1 side of the body, trouble speaking or thinking, change in balance, or change in eyesight.
- This drug may affect being able to father a child. In some people, this may go back to normal but may take some time. Talk with the doctor.

What are some side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?

WARNING/CAUTION: Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Signs of infection like fever, chills, very bad sore throat, ear or sinus pain, cough, more sputum or change in color of sputum, pain with passing urine, mouth sores, or wound that will not heal.
- Signs of bleeding like throwing up or coughing up blood; vomit that looks like coffee grounds; blood in the urine; black, red, or tarry stools; bleeding from the gums; abnormal vaginal bleeding; bruises without a cause or that get bigger; or bleeding you cannot stop.
- Signs of fluid and electrolyte problems like mood changes, confusion, muscle pain or weakness, a heartbeat that does not feel normal, very bad dizziness or passing out, fast heartbeat, more thirst, seizures, feeling very tired or weak, not hungry, unable to pass urine or change in the amount of urine produced, dry mouth, dry eyes, or very bad upset stomach or throwing up.

- Patients with cancer who take this drug may be at a greater risk of getting a severe health problem called tumor lysis syndrome (TLS). This may lead to death. Call your doctor right away if you have a fast or abnormal heartbeat; any passing out; trouble passing urine; muscle weakness or cramps; upset stomach, throwing up, diarrhea, or not able to eat; or feel sluggish.
- This drug may cause tissue damage if the drug leaks from the vein. Tell your nurse if you have any redness, burning, pain, swelling, blisters, skin sores, or leaking of fluid where the drug is going into your body.

What are some other side effects of this drug?

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

- Feeling dizzy, sleepy, tired, or weak.
- Constipation, diarrhea, stomach pain, upset stomach, throwing up, or feeling less hungry.
- Heartburn.
- Back pain.
- Bone or joint pain.
- Headache.
- Trouble sleeping.
- Weight loss.
- Mouth irritation or mouth sores.
- Nose or throat irritation.
- Change in taste.
- Anxiety.
- Night sweats.
- Sweating a lot.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to your national health agency.

How is this drug best taken?

Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

- It is given as an infusion into a vein over a period of time.
- Other drugs may be given to help with infusion side effects.
- Have blood work checked as you have been told by the doctor. Talk with the doctor.
- If you have upset stomach, throwing up, diarrhea, or are not hungry, talk with your doctor. There may be ways to lower these side effects.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

- Call your doctor to find out what to do.

How do I store and/or throw out this drug?

- If you need to store this drug at home, talk with your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist about how to store it.

General drug facts

- If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.
- Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else's drugs.

- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

Last Reviewed Date

2021-06-24

Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer: This information should not be used to decide whether or not to take this medicine or any other medicine. Only the healthcare provider has the knowledge and training to decide which medicines are right for a specific patient. This information does not endorse any medicine as safe, effective, or approved for treating any patient or health condition. This is only a brief summary of general information about this medicine. It does NOT include all information about the possible uses, directions, warnings, precautions, interactions, adverse effects, or risks that may apply to this medicine. This information is not specific medical advice and does not replace information you receive from the healthcare provider. You must talk with the healthcare provider for complete information about the risks and benefits of using this medicine. The use of this information is governed by the Lexicomp End User License Agreement, available at <https://www.wolterskluwer.com/en/solutions/lexicomp/about/eula>.

© 2021 UpToDate, Inc. and its affiliates and/or licensors. All Rights Reserved.

Neutropenia

(noo-troo-Peen-ee-ah)

Neutrophils are blood cells that are produced in the marrow, or core of the bones. When the number of neutrophils in the blood falls, we call this neutropenia.

Neutrophils are very important because they fight infections. When bacteria invade the body, the body sends a signal and the neutrophils rush to the site of the infection. The bone marrow is your body's factory for making blood cells---it also responds to infection by making more neutrophils to replace those involved in fighting infection. If something slows down or prevents production of new neutrophils, a shortage may develop and any infection can overwhelm the few neutrophils available. Therefore, a person with only a few neutrophils is at risk for developing a serious bacterial infection.

A number of things can affect the bone marrow's ability to produce blood cells: some chemotherapy drugs, some types of radiation therapy, cancer in your bone marrow, and even some infections. Some anti-cancer medicines can destroy neutrophils temporarily. If you are receiving chemotherapy that will affect your neutrophils, your doctor will run routine blood tests to see what your neutrophil count is. If neutropenia does develop, you must take extreme care to decrease your risk for infection.

Some steps taken to decrease the risk of infection include:

- Good hand washing before entering the patient's room and at all times
- Good personal hygiene
- Not allowing visitors who have a contagious illness or have just received a vaccination
- Not eating raw fruits or vegetables, or washing them very well because they can carry bacteria and fungi
- Not permitting flowers and plants (also sources of bacteria and fungi) in patient's room, unless the water in vase is very clean. Wear mask and gloves if you will be digging in dirt/gardens.

Many other precautions can be taken as well; the oncology nurse can offer further instructions to help patients with neutropenia minimize the risk of infection.

Another post-chemotherapy practice important for yourself and others, is to close the toilet lid and flush toilet twice after using the toilet for 48 hours after your last chemotherapy.

Always remember if you have a fever (temperature) of 100.4 or higher OR shaking chills, regardless of your temperature reading, go to the ER immediately or call office or hospital after hours as instructed!!

Post Chemotherapy Medications

1. Compazine (Prochlorperazine). Take one pill every 6 hours as needed for nausea/upset stomach/vomiting. May cause drowsiness.
2. Imodium AD (Loperamide). Get this over the counter at your pharmacy to have at home if you need it for diarrhea. Take as directed on the box or as directed by us.
3. Miralax. Get this over the counter at your pharmacy to have at home if you need it for constipation. Take as directed on the bottle, but can take a dose up to 3 times a day.
4. Senna-S (Docusate & Senna)- Softener and laxative together. Take 2 pills daily if you need it for constipation and you can take up to 4 pills twice a day.
5. Triple Mouthwash (Benadryl, Maalax, Viscous Lidocaine Solution). If you develop a sore mouth, swish and swallow 5 ml 4 times per day as needed until your mouth improves (We will not send this in to the pharmacy automatically, as you may not need it. Call us if ANY sore mouth develops).
6. Biotene products for dry mouth management-moisturizing mouth gel, mouthwash, oral rinse, toothpaste, moisturizing spray.

Prescription will be called to your pharmacy for Compazine. Get Imodium AD and Miralax over the counter. Call us if you develop a sore mouth and we will call triple mouthwash.

Call the office at (434) 517-8140 Monday through Friday, 8:30AM-5:00PM, to speak to one of the nurses, or Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital at (434) 517-3563 to speak to infusion nurses, or Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital at (434) 517-3100 during nights/weekends/holidays and ask for the physician on call for Hematology/Oncology if you have symptoms that are not relieved by the above regimens.