

Medication Information Sheet

PERTuzumab (per-TOO-zoo-mab)

This document provides general information about your medication. It does not replace the advice of your health care professional. Always discuss your therapy with your health care professional and refer to the package insert for more details.

Other Name: Perjeta®

Appearance: clear, colourless solution mixed into larger bags of fluids

What is this medication for?

- For treating breast cancer that has spread to other organs, usually given along with two other medications.

What should I do before I have this medication?

- Tell your doctor and pharmacist if you have/had significant medical condition(s), especially if you have / had heart problems (including irregular heartbeat, heart attack, heart failure or uncontrolled high blood pressure) or any allergies,
- People who have cancer or leukemia are at a higher risk of developing other cancers/leukemias (usually some years later). Some cancer medications may increase these risks, especially if used for a prolonged period of time. You should discuss any concerns about this drug with your doctor.

How will this medication affect sex, pregnancy and breastfeeding?

- The use of this medication in men or women may cause harm to the unborn baby if pregnancy occurs. Let your health care team know if you or your partner is pregnant, becomes pregnant during treatment, or if you are breastfeeding
- If there is ANY chance that you or your partner may become pregnant, you and your partner together must:
- ► **Use 2 effective forms of birth control at the same time** while receiving this drug. Do not take birth control pills if you have breast cancer. Keep using birth control until **7 months** after the last dose. Discuss with your healthcare team.
- Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant.
- Do not breastfeed during treatment with this drug.
- Effects on Fertility: Unknown

*The most updated version and more symptom control information can be found on: <http://www.cancercare.on.ca/druginfo>

Prepared with input from the Cancer Care Ontario-Medication Information Sheets Working Group.

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How is this medication given?

- This drug is given by injection into a vein.
- This drug will be given over a longer period of time for the first cycle. If you have no problems with this infusion, it will be given over a shorter time for the following cycles.

What else do I need to know while on this medication?

- Although it is unlikely that other medications can affect your treatment, make sure your health care team knows about all of your medicines (prescription or over-the-counter medications, herbals and supplements). Check with your health care team before starting or stopping any of them.
- For mild aches and pain:
 - You may take acetaminophen (Tylenol®) tablets. Ask your health care team about the right dose for you.
 - Talk to your health care team first before starting ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®), naproxen (Aleve®) or aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid, ASA), since these may increase your chance of bleeding.
 - If you are already taking aspirin regularly, such as for heart conditions; Do not stop it- talk to your health care team first.
 - If you feel unwell, take your temperature before using any of these drugs. They may hide a fever. **Phone your health care team or go to the closest emergency room right away if you have a fever.** See the [Fever](#) pamphlet for more information.
- Drinking alcohol and smoking during your treatment may increase some side effects and make your medication less effective. Speak to your health care team about smoking and drinking alcohol while on treatment.

What are the side effects of this medication?

Common side effects usually occur in more than 1 out of every 10 patients. Other side effects are less common, but may be severe. You may not have all of the side effects below. You may have side effects that are not listed.

The following side effects have been seen in people using PERTuzumab with other chemotherapy drugs, so some of these effects may be caused by chemotherapy.

Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
More Common Side Effects	
<p>Diarrhea (may be severe)</p> <p>May happen days to weeks after you get your treatment.</p> <p>To help prevent diarrhea :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink lots of clear liquids. Drink small amounts at a time. • Avoid foods or drinks with artificial sweetener (e.g. chewing gum, “diet” drinks), coffee and alcohol. • Eat many small meals and snacks instead of 2 or 3 large meals. <p>If you have diarrhea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take anti-diarrhea medication if your health care team prescribed it. <p>See the Diarrhea pamphlet for more information.</p>	<p>Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe</p>
<p>Unusual bleeding or bruising</p> <p>You may have black stools, cough up blood, blood in your urine, purple or red dots on your skin or bleeding that will not stop.</p> <p>Fever, chills, infection</p> <p>You have a fever if your temperature taken in your mouth (oral temperature) is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38.3°C (100.9°F) or higher at any time OR • 38.0°C (100.4°F) or higher for at least one hour. <p>While you are getting chemotherapy treatments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep a digital thermometer at home and take your temperature if you feel hot or unwell (for example, chills). • Avoid taking medications that treat a fever before you take your temperature (for example, Tylenol®, acetaminophen, Advil® or ibuprofen) as they may hide a fever. • Do not eat or drink anything hot or cold right before taking your temperature. • Wash your hands often. • Check with your doctor before getting any vaccines, surgeries or visiting your dentist. <p>If you have a fever, talk to your health care team or go to the closest emergency room. See our Neutropenia (Low white blood cell count) pamphlet for more information.</p>	<p>Get emergency medical help right away</p>

Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
More Common Side Effects	
<p>Nausea and vomiting</p> <p>May occur in hours to days after your treatment. It is easier to prevent nausea than to treat it if it happens.</p> <p>To help prevent nausea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take anti-nausea medication(s) as prescribed to you by your doctor. • Drink clear liquids and have small meals. Get fresh air and rest. • Do not eat spicy, fried foods or foods with a strong smell. • Limit caffeine (e.g. coffee, tea) and alcohol. <p>If you have nausea or vomiting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take anti-nausea medication(s) as prescribed to you by your doctor. • Contact your health care team if the prescribed anti-nausea medications are not helping to control your nausea and vomiting. <p>Also see Nausea & Vomiting pamphlet for more information.</p>	<p>Contact your health care team if nausea lasts more than 48 hours or vomiting lasts for more than 24 hours</p>
<p>Rash; dry, itchy skin</p> <p>Rash may be severe in some rare cases and cause your skin to blister or peel. If this happens, get emergency medical help right away.</p> <p>To prevent and treat dry skin,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use skin moisturizer. • Protect your skin from the sun and the cold. • Use sunscreen with UVA and UVB protection and a SPF of at least 30. 	<p>Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe</p>
<p>Low appetite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may not feel like eating or you may lose weight. • Try to eat foods that you like and eat small meals throughout the day. • You may need to take meal supplements to help keep your weight up. • Talk to your health care team if you have a low appetite. • See our Loss of appetite pamphlet for more information. 	<p>Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe</p>
<p>Mouth sores</p> <p>You may have round, painful, white or gray sores inside your mouth. They can occur on the tongue, lips, gums, or inside your cheeks. In more severe cases they may make it hard to swallow, eat or to brush your teeth. They usually last 1 to 2 weeks.</p>	<p>Contact your health care team as soon as possible</p>

Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
More Common Side Effects	
<p>To help prevent mouth sores:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take care of your mouth by gently brushing and flossing regularly. • Rinse your mouth often. Do not use mouthwashes with alcohol. • Instead, try a homemade mouthwash: • Mix 1 teaspoonful of baking soda and 1 teaspoonful of salt in 4 cups (1L) of water. <p>If you have mouth sores:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check with your health care team as soon as you notice mouth or lip sores or if it hurts to swallow. • Avoid hot, spicy, acidic, hard or crunchy foods.. Your doctor may prescribe a mouthwash to relieve mouth sores and prevent infection. <p>See the Mouth Care pamphlet for more information.</p>	
<p>Headache; mild joint, muscle pain or cramps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take your pain medication as prescribed by your doctor. • You can take acetaminophen (Tylenol®) tablets as needed for mild aches and pains. Ask your doctor or pharmacist about the right dose for you. • Talk to your doctor or pharmacist first before taking ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®), naproxen (Aleve®) or aspirin. These medication may increase bleeding risk. • Rest often and try light exercise as it may help. 	<p>Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe</p>
<p>Cough; Feeling short of breath</p>	<p>Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe</p>
<p>Tingling, numb fingers and toes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May slowly get better after your treatment ends. • Contact your health care team if you have trouble doing up buttons, writing, picking up small objects, have pain or trouble moving. 	<p>Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe</p>
<p>Unusual taste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chewing gum or sucking on ice chips may help. 	<p>Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe</p>

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More Common Side Effects	
<p>Trouble falling asleep</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This may be caused by one of your medications and may improve once your body gets used to the medication or when your treatment ends. • Talk to your doctor if this bothers you. 	Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe
<p>Dizziness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may feel light headed. • Lay down if this happens. • Get up and move slowly once you feel better. • Do not drive a motor vehicle or use machinery if you feel dizzy. 	Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe
<p>Heartburn; stomach upset</p> <p>To help prevent heartburn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid fatty or spicy foods. • Remain upright after eating. • Drink clear liquids and eat small meals. 	Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe
<p>Allergic reaction (may be severe)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most common symptoms include fever, itchiness, rash, swollen lips, face or tongue, chest and throat tightness. • It may occur during or shortly after the medication is given to you. Let your health care team know right away if this happens to you. 	Get emergency medical help right away
<p>High blood pressure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check your blood pressure regularly. Your doctor may prescribe medication to treat high blood pressure. • If you have a severe headache, severe dizziness, or if you faint get emergency help right away as it may be a sign your blood pressure is too high or too low. 	Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe

Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
Less Common Side Effects, but may be Severe	
<p>Heart problems</p> <p>You may have an irregular heartbeat, shortness of breath, chest pain, fainting spells or swelling in your legs, ankles and belly.</p>	Get emergency medical help right away

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Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
Less Common Side Effects, but may be Severe	
<p>Lung problems</p> <p>You may have a cough, breathing problems, chest pain or cough up blood.</p>	<p>Get emergency medical help right away</p>

For more links on how to manage your symptoms go to www.cancercare.on.ca/symptoms.

The information set out in the medication information sheets, regimen information sheets, and symptom management information (for patients) contained in the Drug Formulary (the "Formulary") is intended to be used by health professionals and patients for informational purposes only. The information is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, drug interactions or side effects of a certain drug, nor should it be used to indicate that use of a particular drug is safe, appropriate or effective for a given condition.

A patient should always consult a healthcare provider if he/she has any questions regarding the information set out in the Formulary. The information in the Formulary is not intended to act as or replace medical advice and should not be relied upon in any such regard. All uses of the Formulary are subject to clinical judgment and actual prescribing patterns may not follow the information provided in the Formulary.