

## Panitumumab (Vectibix)

---

### About This Medicine

Panitumumab is used to treat cancer. It is given in the vein (IV).

### Possible Side Effects

- Tiredness
- Nausea
- Diarrhea (loose bowel movements)
- Rash
- Infection of skin around the nails

**Note:** Each of the side effects above was reported in 20% or greater of patients treated with panitumumab. All possible side effects are not included. Your side effects may be different depending on your cancer diagnosis, condition, or if you are receiving other medicines in combination. Please discuss any concerns or questions with your medical team.

### Warnings and Precautions

- Inflammation (swelling) and serious damage of your cornea such as thinning, which can put you at increased risk of developing small tears (perforation) of the eye.
- Severe diarrhea and dehydration (lack of water in the body from losing too much fluid) that may cause changes in your kidney function, when panitumumab is given in combination with chemotherapy.
- Severe allergic skin reaction which can be life-threatening. You may develop blisters on your skin that are filled with fluid or a severe red rash all over your body that may be painful.
- Sensitivity to sunlight/light. You may get a skin rash/reaction while being out in the sun or are exposed to sun lamps and tanning beds.
- While you are getting this medicine in your vein (IV), you may have a reaction to the medicine, which may be life-threatening. Sometimes you may be given medication to stop or lessen these side effects. Your nurse will check you closely for these signs: fever or shaking chills, flushing, facial swelling, feeling dizzy, headache, trouble breathing, rash, itching, chest tightness, or chest pain. These reactions may happen after your infusion. **If this happens, call 911 for emergency care.**
- Thickening and/or inflammation of the lung tissues, which may be life-threatening. You may have a dry cough or trouble breathing.

- Changes in electrolytes, especially magnesium.

**Note:** Some of the side effects above are very rare. If you have concerns and/or questions, please discuss them with your medical team.

## Important Information

- Cytotoxic medicines leave the body through urine and stool, but they can also be present in other body fluids such as blood, vomit, semen, and vaginal fluids. Take precautions to prevent others from coming in contact with your medicine or your body fluids. Follow safety precautions during your treatment and for as long as directed by your health care provider after your treatment. If you take a cytotoxic pill each day, follow these precautions every day.

## Treating Side Effects

- Manage tiredness by pacing your activities for the day.
- Be sure to include periods of rest between energy-draining activities.
- To help with nausea and vomiting, eat small, frequent meals instead of three large meals a day. Choose foods and drinks that are at room temperature. Ask your nurse or doctor about other helpful tips and medicine that is available to help stop or lessen these symptoms.
- Drink enough fluids to keep your urine pale yellow.
- If you throw up or have diarrhea, you should drink more fluids so that you do not become dehydrated (lack of water in the body from losing too much fluid). Eat low-fiber foods that are high in protein and calories and avoid foods that can irritate your digestive tracts or lead to cramping.
- Ask your nurse or doctor about medicine that can lessen or stop your diarrhea.
- If you get a rash do not put anything on it unless your doctor or nurse says you may. Keep the area around the rash clean and dry. Ask your doctor for medicine if your rash bothers you.
- Use sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher when you are outdoors even for a short time. Cover up when you are out in the sun. Wear wide-brimmed hats, long-sleeved shirts, and pants. Keep your neck, chest, and back covered during treatment and for 2 months after treatment.
- Infusion reactions may occur after your infusion. **If this happens, call 911 for emergency care.**

## Food and Medicine Interactions

- There are no known interactions of panitumumab with food.
- This medicine may interact with other medicines. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all the medicines and dietary supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbs, and others) that you are taking at this time. Also, check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new prescription or over-the-counter medicines, or dietary supplements to make sure that there are no interactions.

## When to Call the Doctor



Call your doctor or nurse if you have any of these symptoms and/or any new or unusual symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher
- Chills
- Blurred vision or other changes in eyesight
- Red or painful eye
- Teary eye
- Pain in your chest
- Face swelling
- Dry cough
- Wheezing and/or trouble breathing
- Tiredness that interferes with your daily activities
- Diarrhea, 4 times in one day or diarrhea with lack of strength or a feeling of being dizzy
- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking and/or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Throwing up more than 3 times a day
- Decreased or very dark urine
- New rash and/or itching
- Signs of inflammation/infection (redness, swelling, pain) of the tissue around your nails
- Rash that is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Flu-like symptoms: fever, headache, muscle and joint aches, and fatigue (low energy, feeling weak)
- Develop sensitivity to sunlight/light
- Signs of infusion reaction: fever or shaking chills, flushing, facial swelling, feeling dizzy, headache, trouble breathing, rash, itching, chest tightness, or chest pain. **If this happens, call 911 for emergency care.**
- Signs of low magnesium: nausea, vomiting, tremors or shaking in parts or all of the body, muscle weakness and/or spasms, tingling in the arms and legs, confusion, seizures.
- If you think you may be pregnant

## Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** This medicine can have harmful effects on the unborn baby. Women of childbearing potential should use effective methods of birth control during your cancer treatment and for at least 2 months after stopping treatment. Let your doctor know right away if you think you may be pregnant.
- **Breastfeeding warning:** Women should not breastfeed during treatment and for 2 months after stopping treatment because this medicine could enter the breast milk and cause harm to a breastfeeding baby.
- **Fertility warning:** In women, this medicine may affect your ability to have children in the future. Talk with your doctor or nurse if you plan to have children. Ask for information on egg banking.

Revised October 2023

