

Rituximab-xxxx (Riabni, Rituxan, Ruxience, Truxima)

About This Drug

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

Possible Side Effects

- A decrease in the number of white blood cells. This may raise your risk of infection.
- Fever and chills
- Weakness
- Infection
- While you are getting this drug in your vein (IV), you may have a reaction to the drug. 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.**

Note: Each of the side effects above was reported in 25% or greater of patients treated with rituximab-xxxx. 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 drugs in combination. Please discuss any concerns or questions with your medical team.

Warnings and Precautions

- Tumor lysis syndrome: This drug may act on the cancer cells very quickly. This may affect how your kidneys work and can be life-threatening.
- Risk of severe and life-threatening infections
- Severe infusion reactions, which can be life-threatening
- Abnormal heartbeat or risk of heart attack
- Changes in your kidney function, which can cause kidney failure and can be life-threatening
- Severe bowel problems such as obstruction and/or perforation - a partial or complete blockage of your small and/or large intestine, which can lead to an abnormal hole in your intestine and can be life-threatening.
- Severe allergic skin reaction. 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 and very rarely be life-threatening. You may have soreness of the mouth and throat. You may have red areas, white patches, or sores that hurt.

- Reactivation of the hepatitis B virus if you have ever been exposed to the virus. This can affect your liver function and cause liver failure and be life-threatening.
- A rare virus can cause an infection that affects your central nervous system, and can be life-threatening. The central nervous system is made up of your brain and spinal cord. You could feel extreme tiredness, agitation, confusion, have trouble understanding or speaking, trouble thinking and/or memory loss, difficulty walking, eyesight changes, numbness or lack of strength to your arms, legs, or seizures. **If you start to have any of these symptoms let your doctor know right away.**

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

- Talk to your doctor before receiving any vaccinations during your treatment. Some vaccinations are not recommended while receiving rituximab-xxxx.
- This drug may be present in the saliva, tears, sweat, urine, stool, vomit, semen, and vaginal secretions. Talk to your doctor and/or your nurse about the necessary precautions to take during this time.

Treating Side Effects

- Get regular exercise, with your doctor's approval. If you feel too tired to exercise vigorously, try taking a short walk.
- To decrease the risk of infection, wash your hands regularly.
- Avoid close contact with people who have a cold, the flu, or other infections.
- Take your temperature as your doctor or nurse tells you, and whenever you feel like you may have a fever.
- Drink plenty of fluids (a minimum of eight glasses per day is recommended).
- 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.
- Infusion reactions may occur after your infusion. **If this happens, call 911 for emergency care.**

Food and Drug Interactions

- There are no known interactions of rituximab-xxxx with food.
- This drug may interact with other medicines. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all the prescription and over-the-counter 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
- Feeling dizzy or lightheaded
- Extreme tiredness, confusion and/or agitation
- Symptoms of a seizure such as confusion, blacking out, passing out, loss of hearing or vision, blurred vision, unusual smells or tastes (such as burning rubber), trouble talking, tremors or shaking in parts or all of the body, repeated body movements, tense muscles that do not relax, and loss of control of urine and bowels. **If you or your family member suspects you are having a seizure, call 911 right away.**
- Difficulty walking
- Trouble understanding or speaking
- Trouble thinking and/or memory loss
- Blurry vision or changes in your eyesight
- Numbness or lack of strength to your arms and/or legs
- Chest pain or symptoms of a heart attack. Most heart attacks involve pain in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes. The pain may go away and come back or it can be constant. It can feel like pressure, squeezing, fullness, or pain. Sometimes pain is felt in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw, or stomach. **If any of these symptoms last 2 minutes, call 911.**
- Feeling that your heart is beating in a fast or not normal way (palpitations)
- Weakness that interferes with your daily activities
- Flu-like symptoms: fever, headache, muscle and joint aches, and fatigue (low energy, feeling weak)
- Difficulty swallowing
- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking or is not relieved by prescribed medicine
- Throwing up more than 3 times a day
- No bowel movement in 3 days or when you feel uncomfortable
- Unable to pass gas
- Pain in your abdomen that does not go away
- Decreased or very dark urine
- A new rash or a rash that is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- 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 infection: fever or chills, cough, trouble breathing, severe pain in your abdomen, difficulty urinating, burning or pain when you pass urine, redness and/or swelling of the skin
- Signs of possible liver problems: dark urine, pale bowel movements, pain in your abdomen, feeling very tired and weak, unusual itching, or yellowing of the eyes or skin
- Signs of tumor lysis: confusion or agitation, decreased urine, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, muscle cramping, numbness and/or tingling, seizures.
- If you think you may be pregnant



Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** This drug 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 12 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 6 months after stopping treatment because this drug could enter the breast milk and cause harm to a breastfeeding baby.
- **Fertility warning:** Fertility studies have not been done with this drug. Talk with your doctor or nurse if you plan to have children. Ask for information on sperm or egg banking.

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