

## Isatuximab

Isatuximab is a type of anti-cancer treatment called targeted therapy. The possible benefits of this treatment vary; for some people this treatment may reduce the risk of the cancer coming back, for others it may control the cancer and its symptoms. Your doctor or nurse will be happy to answer any questions you have about your treatment.

### Your treatment

Your doctor has suggested treatment with an intravenous infusion called isatuximab. Isatuximab in combination with pomalidomide and dexamethasone is used to treat patients with relapsed and refractory multiple myeloma who have had at least two previous treatments, including lenalidomide and a proteasome inhibitor such as bortezomib, whose myeloma has returned or stopped responding to treatment.

Isatuximab is a targeted monoclonal antibody treatment, a type of immunotherapy that works with your body's immune system.

The intravenous infusion is given weekly for the first month. After this it is given every two weeks until disease progression. This treatment is given until either your condition relapses or you cannot continue taking it for a medical reason.

**Isatuximab:** This medicine is given as an intravenous drip over a number of hours. The first infusion can take around 4 hours to give. If no reactions occur subsequent doses during cycle 1 can be given over a shorter period (the second infusion over 2 hours and the third and subsequent infusions over 1 hour 15 minutes). You will need to attend the day unit for each infusion.

This treatment can have serious or possibly life-threatening side effects. It is very important that you report side effects straight away. Don't delay, if you feel unwell, please ring The Christie Hotline on **0161 446 3658**. The lines are open 24 hours a day.

### Increased risk of serious infection

You are vulnerable to infection while you are having chemotherapy. Minor infections can become life-threatening in a matter of hours if left untreated. Symptoms of infection include fever, shivering, sweats, sore throat, diarrhoea, discomfort when passing urine, cough or breathlessness. We recommend that you use a thermometer so you can check your temperature. You can buy one from your local chemist.

**If your temperature is 37.5°C or above, or below 36°C or you have symptoms of an infection, contact The Christie Hotline straight away.**



## **Flu vaccinations**

### *Is it alright for me to have a flu jab during the time I'm having chemotherapy?*

It's safe to have a flu jab, but depending on the sort of chemotherapy you have had, it may not give quite as much protection against infection as usual. Some patients may need two vaccinations. However, if you you're thinking of having any other vaccinations, do check with your Christie doctor first, because some vaccines should be avoided.

## **Possible side effects**

Chemotherapy can cause many different side effects. Some are more likely to occur than others. We are all different, so we may get different side effects with varying severity. Most side effects are usually temporary, but in some rare cases they can be life-threatening. It is important to tell your hospital doctor or nurse about any side effects so they can be monitored and, where possible, treated.

## **Infusion reactions**

The most common severe signs of infusion reaction include:

- high blood pressure (hypertension)
- feeling short of breath

The most common signs of infusion reaction include:

- feeling short of breath
- cough
- chills
- nausea

## **Very common side effects (may affect more than 1 in 10 people)**

### **Low white blood cell count**

There is a risk of infection and shingles.

### **Bruising or bleeding**

This treatment can reduce the production of platelets which help the blood to clot. Tell your doctor if you have unexplained bruising or bleeding, such as nosebleeds, bloodspots or rashes on the skin and bleeding gums. You may need a platelet infusion.

### **Anaemia (low number of red blood cells)**

While having this treatment you may become anaemic. This may make you feel tired and breathless. Let your doctor or nurse know if these symptoms are a problem. You may need a blood transfusion.

### **Gastrointestinal disturbance**

This treatment can cause constipation, diarrhoea, nausea, an increase or decrease in weight. It is important to drink plenty of fluid and maintain a balanced diet. Please report any of these symptoms to your nurse or doctor.

### **Infection of the lungs or airways**

Feeling short of breath

### **Nausea and vomiting (sickness)**

The severity of this varies from person to person. Anti-sickness medication will be given along with your chemotherapy to prevent this. If you continue to feel or be sick, tell your nurse because your anti-sickness medication may need to be changed or increased.

## Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):

- Decreased appetite.
- Weight loss.

If any of the above apply to you, or you are not sure, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse immediately.

### **The following symptoms require medical attention, but are not an emergency. Contact your health care provider within 24 hours of noticing any of the following:**

- Nausea (interferes with ability to eat and unrelieved with prescribed medication).
- Vomiting (vomiting more than 4-5 times in a 24 hour period).
- Diarrhoea (4-6 episodes in a 24-hour period).
- Constipation unrelieved by laxative use.
- Extreme fatigue (unable to carry on self-care activities).
- Mouth sores (painful redness, swelling and ulcers).
- Yellowing of the skin or eyes.
- Swelling of the feet or ankles.
- Sudden weight gain.
- Signs of infection such as redness or swelling, pain on swallowing, coughing up mucus, or painful urination.
- Unable to eat or drink for 24 hours or have signs of dehydration: tiredness, thirst, dry mouth, dark and decreased amount of urine, or dizziness.

## Serious and potentially life threatening side effects

In a small proportion of patients chemotherapy can result in very severe side effects which may rarely result in death. The team caring for you will discuss the risk of these side effects with you.

### Late side effects

Some side effects may become evident only after a number of years. In reaching any decision with you about treatment, the potential benefit you receive from treatment will be weighed against the risks of serious long term side effects to the heart, lungs, kidneys and bone marrow. With some drugs there is also a small but definite risk of developing another cancer. If any of these problems specifically applies to you, the doctor will discuss these with you and note this on your consent form.

## Sex, contraception and fertility

### **Protecting your partner and contraception:**

We recommend that you or your partner use a condom during sexual intercourse while you are having the course of chemotherapy and for at least 5 months post the last dose of isatuximab. Chemotherapy is dangerous to unborn babies and this will also protect you and your partner from any chemotherapy drugs that may be present in semen and in the vagina. If you suspect that you may be pregnant please tell your doctor immediately

### **Fertility:**

This chemotherapy may affect your ability to have children. Your doctor or nurse should have discussed this with you. If not, please ask them before you start treatment.

### **Important:**

Isatuximab can affect test results used to match your blood for blood transfusions. This effect can last for up to six months after your final infusion of isatuximab. You should have this test done before you start treatment with isatuximab and you should inform any healthcare team who treats you that you are being treated with isatuximab.

## Contacts

If you have any general questions or concerns about your treatment, please contact the Haematology Team.

Lisa Jeffrey, Emma Whitham and Decima Govett, **0161 918 7962**

Haematology Clinical Nurse Specialists

Haematology and Transplant day unit **0161 446 3924**

General enquiries **0161 446 3000**

For urgent advice ring The Christie Hotline **0161 446 3658 (24 hours)**

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Your consultant is:      |  |
| Your hospital number is: |  |
| Your key worker is:      |  |

| Day:                              | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| <b>Date:</b>                      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| <b>Cycle 1</b>                    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| <b>Cycle 2</b>                    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| <b>Cycle 3</b>                    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| <b>Cycle 4</b>                    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| <b>Cycle 5</b>                    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| <b>Cycle 6</b>                    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| <b>Carfilzomib</b>                |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| <b>Dexamethasone</b>              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| <b>Dalteparin<br/>If required</b> |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| <b>Other<br/>medication:</b>      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |

If you need information in a different format, such as easy read, large print, BSL, braille, email, SMS text or other communication support, please tell your ward or clinic nurse.

The Christie is committed to producing high quality, evidence based information for patients. Our patient information adheres to the principles and quality statements of the Information Standard. If you would like to have details about the sources used please contact **[the-christie.patient.information@nhs.net](mailto:the-christie.patient.information@nhs.net)**

For information and advice visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham or Salford. Opening times can vary, please check before making a special journey.



Contact The Christie Hotline for  
urgent support and specialist advice  
**The Christie Hotline: 0161 446 3658**  
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week