

Sacituzumab govitecan

This leaflet is offered as a guide to you and your family. The possible benefits of treatment vary; for some people chemotherapy may reduce the risk of the cancer coming back, for others it may control the cancer and its symptoms. Chemotherapy is the most commonly prescribed anti-cancer treatment, but other types of treatment are also used. Your doctor will explain to you whether you will receive chemotherapy or another type of treatment, or a combination of both. Your doctor or nurse will be happy to answer any questions you have about your treatment. You will find it useful to refer to the booklet 'Chemotherapy, a guide', which gives general information on chemotherapy and side effects.

Your treatment

Sacituzumab govitecan is made up of 2 parts that are combined together:

- sacituzumab is a monoclonal antibody (targeted therapy)
- govitecan is an anti-cancer drug, sometimes referred to as chemotherapy

When sacituzumab attaches to the Trop-2 protein it allows the govitecan to go into the cancer cell. This drug then becomes active and kills the cancer cell. This action helps to stop the cancer growing or slows its growth.

Sacituzumab govitecan is given into the vein (intravenously) through a fine tube (cannula) as an infusion on day 1 and day 8 of a 21 day cycle; until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity.

You will have a routine blood test before the start of each cycle of treatment. Occasionally we may not be able to go ahead with your treatment until your blood counts are back to a safe level. If this happens, your treatment may be delayed a week.

You may be advised to have a line fitted to aid the delivery of your intravenous chemotherapy treatment. This will be organised by the clinic if it is required.

Your line or port needs to be removed after all your intravenous chemotherapy treatments have finished.

If you have not received an appointment for this, please contact the procedure team on **0161 446 3916**.

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.



Possible side effects

Chemotherapy can cause many different side effects. Some are more likely to occur than others. Everyone is different and not everyone gets all the side effects. 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.

Common side effects (more than 1 in 10)

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 you pass urine, cough or breathlessness. We recommend that you use a digital thermometer so you can check your temperature. You can buy one from your local chemist.

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

• 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.

• Neutropenia (low number of white blood cells)

While having this treatment you may become neutropenic. You may not be aware of this or feel any different but can be more susceptible to infections. You may need a deferral from treatment or a dose reduction.

• Bruising or bleeding

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

• Diarrhoea

If this becomes a problem at any point during your treatment, contact The Christie Hotline for advice. If you develop severe diarrhoea it is important to contact The Christie on **0161 446 3658** straightaway. **This may be a sign of a serious infection. Don't delay!**

• Lethargy

This treatment may make you feel tired and lacking in energy. It can be frustrating when you feel unable to cope with routine tasks. You may benefit from additional support during your treatment. Complementary therapies may be helpful. Speak to your nurse or doctor for further information. If necessary, take time off work. Gentle exercise, such as walking, can be beneficial.

- **Nausea and vomiting (sickness)**

Anti-sickness medication may be given alongside your chemotherapy to prevent this. You will be given anti-sickness tablets to take at home. If you continue to feel or be sick, contact your GP or this hospital.

- **Joint and muscle pain**

Aches and pains can be experienced in the joints (arthralgia) and muscles (myalgia). The severity of this varies from person to person. It is important to inform the hospital and then appropriate painkillers can be prescribed.

- **Liver problems**

This treatment can affect your liver function. This will be monitored through regular blood tests.

- **Allergic reactions**

Less commonly, people may experience an allergic reaction usually with the first or second cycle. This may involve headache, dizziness, rash, nausea or breathlessness. If any of these symptoms occur, call your nurse immediately. These symptoms are usually mild and temporary.

- **Sore mouth**

Your mouth may become sore or dry, or you may notice small mouth ulcers during this treatment. Drinking plenty of fluids and cleaning your teeth regularly and gently with a soft toothbrush can help to reduce the risk of this happening. We can prescribe a mouthwash for you to use during treatment. You can dilute this with water if your mouth is sore. Ask your doctor or nurse for further advice. There is also general mouth care information in the 'Chemotherapy, a guide' booklet. If you continue to have a sore mouth, contact The Christie Hotline.

- **Constipation**

Try to drink plenty of fluids and eat foods high in fibre. Report this to your hospital doctor who may prescribe a suitable laxative. Ask the staff for a copy of the booklet 'Eating - help Yourself', which has useful ideas about diet when you are having treatment.

- **Headaches**

If you start to experience headaches on treatment, please discuss this with your doctor or nurse clinician.

- **Skin rash**

You may develop a skin rash. This is usually mild and easily treated. Please tell your doctor on your next visit.

- **Fluid retention**

This treatment can cause fluid retention, so that your hands and feet become swollen. This will be temporary but should you experience this contact your hospital doctor or nurse.

- **Abdominal pains**

If this occurs, please contact The Christie Hotline for advice.

• **Kidney problems**

This treatment can occasionally cause abnormal kidney blood tests. This is rarely very severe, but your kidney function will be monitored every time you come to the clinic for your treatment.

• **Blood sugar**

This treatment can cause changes to your blood sugars. You will have your blood sugar levels monitored during your treatment. If your blood sugar levels are affected, you should speak to your doctor straight away.

• **Hair thinning**

Some hair loss may occur during treatment, including body and facial hair. It is advisable to avoid perms, colours, use of hot brushes and vigorous frequent washing that could increase hair loss. Please remember that this is a temporary side effect, and your hair will grow back when your treatment is completed. Very rarely, hair loss may be permanent.

The cancer information centre offers practical and emotional support about hair loss for men and women. They will also advise about headwear and access to the wig service.

Drop in, contact **0161 446 8100/8107** or email **the-christie.informationcentre@nhs.net**. It is a good idea to get your wig before you lose a lot of hair which you can then match to your natural colour.

• **Pneumonitis (breathlessness)**

Some patients may experience a feeling of breathlessness or develop a cough. If this happens, please tell your doctor, or contact The Christie so that investigations and treatment can be undertaken.

Rare side effects (less than 1 in 100)

• **Infiltration**

This is when the treatment leaks outside the vein. If you develop redness, soreness or pain at the injection site at any time please let us know straight away.

Other medicines

Please ask your doctor at The Christie for advice about any other medication you are taking, including non-prescribed medicines, complementary therapies and herbal medicines.

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.

Sex, contraception and fertility

Protecting your partner and contraception. We recommend that you or your partner use a condom during sexual intercourse while having the course of chemotherapy. 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.

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.

Contacts

If you have any general questions or concerns about your treatment, please ring the area where you are having treatment:

Administration enquiries:	0161 918 7606/7610
Chemotherapy nurse:	0161 918 7171
Clinical trials unit:	0161 918 7663
Breast care nurses:	0161 446 399

For advice, ring The Christie Hotline on 0161 446 3658 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

Your consultant is:

Your hospital number is:

Your key worker is:

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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**

For information and advice visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham, Salford or Macclesfield. 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