

Consumer Medicine Information

HERCEPTIN®

Trastuzumab

150 mg and 440 mg powder for concentrate, solution for intravenous infusion

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about HERCEPTIN infusion.

It does not contain all the available information.

It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you being given HERCEPTIN against the benefits expected for you.

If you have any concerns about being given this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

HERCEPTIN is also available as a subcutaneous (SC) injection. For more information on HERCEPTIN SC product please refer to the separate CMI for HERCEPTIN SC or speak with your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with the medicine.

You may need to read it again.

What HERCEPTIN is used for

HERCEPTIN contains the active ingredient trastuzumab.

HERCEPTIN belongs to a group of medicines known as antineoplastic (or anti-cancer) agents. There are many different classes of antineoplastic agents. HERCEPTIN belongs to a class called monoclonal antibodies.

Monoclonal antibodies are proteins made in a laboratory. These proteins are designed to recognise and bind to other unique proteins in the body.

HERCEPTIN binds selectively to a protein called human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2). HER2 is found in large amounts on the surface of some cancer cells. When HERCEPTIN binds to HER2 it stops the growth and spread of the cancer cells.

HERCEPTIN is used to treat breast and gastric cancer. It is only used in patients whose tumours has tested positive to HER2.

HERCEPTIN may be used alone or with other medicines that treat breast cancer, such as an aromatase inhibitor (hormone receptor positive breast cancer) or a taxane (e.g. paclitaxel or docetaxel).

For the treatment of gastric cancer, HERCEPTIN is used with the chemotherapy medicines cisplatin and capecitabine (or 5FU).

For further information about other medicines you are receiving with HERCEPTIN, please ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist for the Consumer medicine Information (CMI) leaflet.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions why HERCEPTIN has been prescribed for you.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

Before you are given HERCEPTIN

When you must not be given it

Do not use HERCEPTIN if:

- **you have breast cancer that has not spread (non-metastatic) and**
 - **you have had an LVEF test result (which measures how well your heart can pump blood) of less than 45% or**
 - **you have symptoms of heart failure**

Symptoms of heart failure may include:

- shortness of breath or tire easily after light physical activity (such as walking)
- shortness of breath at night, especially when lying flat
- swelling of the hands or feet due to fluid build up
- abnormal or irregular heartbeat

- **you have had an allergic reaction to:**
 - **HERCEPTIN**
 - **benzyl alcohol**
 - **any proteins of Chinese hamster origin, or**
 - **any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet**

Some symptoms of an allergic reaction may include:

- shortness of breath
- wheezing or difficulty breathing
- rash, itching or hives on the skin, or
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body.

If you are not sure if you should start receiving HERCEPTIN, talk to your doctor.

Before you are given it

Tell your doctor if:

- **you have a history of:**
 - **coronary artery disease** (also known as CAD, a condition where plaque builds up inside the arteries)
 - **poorly controlled hypertension** (high blood pressure)
 - **heart failure** (where the heart can no longer pump normally)
 - **cardiac arrhythmia** (abnormal or rapid heart beat)
 - **angina** (chest pain)
- **you have previously been treated with chemotherapy medicines known as anthracyclines (e.g. doxorubicin); these medicines can damage heart muscle and increase the risk of heart problems with HERCEPTIN**

Your doctor will monitor your heart function closely before and during your treatment with HERCEPTIN. Your heart function may also be monitored for years after ceasing HERCEPTIN treatment.

- **you have any breathing or lung problems**

- **you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant**

HERCEPTIN may be harmful to an unborn baby. If there is a need for HERCEPTIN treatment when you are pregnant your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits to you and the unborn baby.

You should use effective contraception to avoid becoming pregnant while you are being treated with HERCEPTIN and for 7 months after stopping treatment.

- **you are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed**

It is not known if HERCEPTIN passes into breast milk. It is recommended that you discontinue breast-feeding while you are being treated with HERCEPTIN and not restart breast-feeding until 7 months after completing HERCEPTIN treatment.

- **you are allergic to any other medicines or any other substances such as foods, preservatives or dyes.**

Allergic or anaphylactic reactions can occur with HERCEPTIN treatment (known as infusion related reactions). Your doctor or nurse will check for side effects during your infusion. See 'Side effects' for symptoms to look out for.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you are given HERCEPTIN.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you have bought from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Treatment with HERCEPTIN and gemcitabine, vinorelbine, a taxane or radiation therapy can increase the chance of lung problems (interstitial lung disease).

Your doctor and pharmacist may have information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while undergoing treatment with HERCEPTIN.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist that you have received HERCEPTIN therapy, if you start any new medication within seven months of stopping HERCEPTIN treatment.

It may take up to seven months for HERCEPTIN to be removed from your body.

Use in children

The safety and effectiveness of HERCEPTIN in children under 18 years of age have not been established.

How HERCEPTIN is given

Your doctor will perform a test to check that your cancer is HER2 positive before starting treatment with HERCEPTIN.

Follow all directions given to you by your healthcare professional (doctor, nurse or pharmacist).

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

HERCEPTIN must be prepared by a healthcare professional before treatment and will be given in a hospital or clinic by a doctor or nurse.

HERCEPTIN is given by "drip" into a vein (intravenous or IV infusion).

The first HERCEPTIN infusion is given over 90 minutes. If the first infusion is well tolerated, your drip time may be shortened to 30 minutes.

For the treatment of breast cancer, HERCEPTIN may be given either once a week or once every three weeks. It may be given alone, or in combination with other medicines used to treat breast cancer.

For the treatment of gastric cancer, HERCEPTIN is given once every three weeks in combination with other medicines used to treat gastric cancer.

Your doctor will decide how long you should receive HERCEPTIN; this will depend on your response to HERCEPTIN and the state of your disease.

If you miss a dose

As HERCEPTIN is given to you under the supervision of your doctor, you are unlikely to miss a dose. However, if you forget or miss an appointment to receive HERCEPTIN, make another appointment as soon as possible. Your doctor will decide when and how much your next dose of HERCEPTIN will be.

If you are given too much (overdose)

As HERCEPTIN is given to you under the supervision of your doctor it is unlikely that you will be given too much. However, if you experience any side effects after being given HERCEPTIN, tell your doctor or nurse immediately.

While you are receiving HERCEPTIN

Things you must do

Tell all doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are receiving HERCEPTIN.

Tell your doctor or nurse immediately if you have any signs or symptoms of an allergic reaction or anaphylactic reaction.

Some signs and symptoms include:

- swelling of your face, lips, tongue or throat with difficulty breathing,
- swelling of other parts of your body
- shortness of breath, wheezing or trouble breathing
- rash, itching or hives on the skin
- feeling sick (nausea)
- fever, chills
- feeling tired
- headache

Tell your doctor or nurse immediately if you have any signs and symptoms of heart problems.

Some signs and symptoms of heart problems are:

- shortness of breath or getting tired easily after light physical activity (such as walking)
- shortness of breath at night, especially when lying flat
- swelling of the hands or feet due to fluid build up
- cough
- abnormal or irregular heartbeat.

Please follow all your doctor's instructions if any of these symptoms require medication.

Tell your doctor if you become pregnant or plan to become pregnant while receiving HERCEPTIN or if you intend to start a family while receiving HERCEPTIN.

Be sure to keep all of your appointments with your doctor so that your progress can be checked.

Your doctor should perform regular tests.

Things you must not do

Do not stop your HERCEPTIN treatment without talking to your doctor first.

Tell your doctor if you feel that HERCEPTIN is not helping your condition.

Do not take any other medicines whether they require a prescription or not without first telling your doctor or consulting with a pharmacist.

Things to be careful of

Herceptin may cause dizziness and have a minor effect on the ability to drive or use machinery.

Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how HERCEPTIN affects you.

If you experience symptoms during your treatment with HERCEPTIN you should not drive or operate machinery..

Side effects

Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are receiving HERCEPTIN.

HERCEPTIN helps most people with HER2 positive breast cancer and gastric cancer, but it may have some unwanted side effects in some people.

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

Because HERCEPTIN may be used with other medicines that treat breast and gastric cancer, it may be difficult for your doctor to tell whether the side effects are due to HERCEPTIN or due to the other medicines.

For further information about the side effects of any other medicines you are receiving, please ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

During an infusion

Tell your doctor or nurse immediately if you notice any of the following during, or soon after your infusion (particularly during the first infusion):

- swelling of your face, lips, tongue or throat with difficulty breathing
- swelling of other parts of your body such as your hands or feet
- shortness of breath, difficulty breathing or wheezing
- abnormal or rapid beating of the heart
- hives, skin rashes or itching skin
- feeling sick (nausea) or vomiting, diarrhoea
- pain or discomfort (including stomach, back, chest or neck pain)
- fever or chills
- headache and/or dizziness
- weakness or fatigue
- cough

These may be serious side effects. You may require urgent medical attention

Your doctor may prescribe medication to prevent the side effects from occurring while receiving your HERCEPTIN infusion.

After an infusion

Tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital if you notice any of the following:

- swelling of your face, lips, tongue or throat with difficulty breathing
- severe shortness of breath, wheezing or trouble breathing
- severe chest pain spreading out to the arms, neck, shoulder and/or back
- rash, itching or hives on the skin
- fever or chills
- abnormal or irregular beating of the heart
- severe swelling of the hands, feet or legs
- severe coughing.

These may be serious side effects. You may require urgent medical attention.

Tell your doctor or nurse as soon as possible if you notice any of the following:

- any of the side effects listed above
- getting tired more easily after light physical activity, such as walking
- shortness of breath, especially when lying down or if it disturbs your sleep
- runny or blocked nose, or nose bleeds
- insomnia (difficulty sleeping), anxiety or depression
- confusion
- weakness, soreness in muscles and/or joints
- increased cough
- feeling dizzy, tired, looking pale
- flu and/or cold like symptoms, frequent infections such as fever, severe chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers
- hot flushes
- diarrhoea
- changes in weight (gain or loss)
- decrease in or loss of appetite
- redness, dryness or peeling of the hands or feet (hand-foot syndrome)
- unusual hair loss or thinning
- nail problems
- eye problems such as producing more tears, swollen runny eyes or conjunctivitis (discharge with itching of the eyes and crusty eyelids).

This is not a complete list of all possible side effects. Your doctor or pharmacist has a more complete list. Other side effects may occur in some people and there may be some not yet known.

Tell your doctor if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell, even if it is not on this list.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you don't understand anything in this list.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

Product description

Storage

HERCEPTIN will be stored in the pharmacy or on the hospital ward in a refrigerator at a temperature between 2°C and 8°C.

Availability

Both HERCEPTIN 150 mg and 440 mg vials are supplied in single packs.

HERCEPTIN is available in two types (formulations);

- Powder for intravenous infusion (drip into the vein). Supplied as a single dose vial and available in two strengths, 150 mg and 440mg.
- Solution for subcutaneous injection (under the skin). Supplied as a single vial pack and available in one strength, 600 mg in 5 mL solution.

It is important to check the product labels to ensure that the correct formulation is being given as prescribed. HERCEPTIN subcutaneous fixed dose formulation is not for intravenous use and should be given as a subcutaneous injection only.

What HERCEPTIN looks like

HERCEPTIN is a white to pale yellow powder which is dissolved in sterile water before use.

After dissolving, the HERCEPTIN solution should appear as a clear colourless to yellow solution.

Ingredients

Each vial of HERCEPTIN contains 150 mg or 440 mg of the active ingredient, trastuzumab.

HERCEPTIN powder also contains histidine hydrochloride monohydrate, histidine, trehalose dihydrate and polysorbate 20.

The solvent vial (for use with the 440 mg vial only) also contains water for injections containing 1.1% benzyl alcohol.

The trastuzumab protein is made using chinese hamster ovary cells.

Distributor

HERCEPTIN is distributed by:

Roche Products (New Zealand) Limited
PO Box 109113
Newmarket
AUCKLAND

Medical enquiries: 0800 276 243

This leaflet was prepared on 31 January 2020