

Patient Resource

Pembrolizumab and Axitinib

Includes treatment diary

Patient Resource: Pembrolizumab and Axitinib

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You have been prescribed pembrolizumab and axitinib to treat your renal cell (kidney) cancer. Before you start your treatment with pembrolizumab and axitinib, please discuss any health conditions you may have and any plans to have surgery with your oncology healthcare professional.

Pembrolizumab is a monoclonal antibody which enhances the body's immune system to target cancer cells and prevent their growth. This medication is given intravenously (into your vein). Axitinib is an anti-cancer medication that targets a group of proteins known to be involved in the growth and spread of certain types of cancer. This medication comes in tablet form and is taken by mouth twice daily. Swallow the pills whole with a glass of water. It may be taken with or without food and should be taken at the same time each day.

If you have any issues with taking your medication, please contact your pharmacist.

Most Common Side Effects of Pembrolizumab and Axitinib in Adults

- Low or high levels of thyroid hormone
- Diarrhea and/or nausea
- Inflammation of the mucous membranes including in the mouth
- Feeling unusually tired (fatigue) or weak
- Increase in liver enzyme levels appearing on blood tests
- Decreased appetite
- Joint pain
- Protein in urine
- Voice change
- Itching
- Rash
- High blood pressure

If you experience any of the above side effects while being treated with pembrolizumab and axitinib, report them to your oncology healthcare team and discuss the best way to manage them. DO NOT try to manage these side effects on your own. See the next section for serious side effects that may require your doctor's attention right away.

If you notice any symptoms or side effects not listed on this card that concern you, please don't hesitate to contact your oncology care team.

Very common

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Rare

CAUTION

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Uncommon

The below are serious side effects that may require extra support to manage and should be reported to your oncology healthcare team immediately. Do not try to manage these side effects on your own, always speak with your healthcare professional, oncology healthcare team or pharmacist if you have any concerns or questions about your health.

Serious Side Effects of Pembrolizumab and Axitinib in Adults

Common

Talk to your healthcare professional if severe (e.g., impacting your Talk to your healthcare professional in all cases Stop taking pembrolizumab and axitinib, and get immediate med	
Very common High blood pressure	Common Increased sweating
Signs of abnormal bleeding, including nosebleeds, blood in the urine or stool, or coughing up blood Feeling hot Rapid, fluttering or pounding heartbeat	Swollen feet, ankles, legs, or abdomen Feeling cold STOP TAKING MEDICATIONS IMMEDIATELY AND GET
Uncommon Fever (Contact a healthcare professional immediately to rule out febrile neutropenia)	 IMMEDIATE HELP IF YOU EXPERIENCE A COMBINATION OF: Sudden severe pain in the back, chest or abdomen Coughing (especially if coughing up blood), intense unexplained pain high in the neck or back
Anemia (low red blood cell count) Swelling of extremities Swollen lymph nodes Reactions to infusions: Flushing	



Very common Red or swollen palms Thick calluses and blisters of the hands and soles of feet Tingling, burning, or tightness of skin Common Skin problems such as rash, itching, blistering, peeling or sores Ulcers in the genital area Hair loss **Uncommon** Dry skin Red, warm, or swollen area of the skin that spreads rapidly, accompanied by: severe pain (which may extend before the impacted skin area) or fever. Rashes or tender lumps on the skin Red skin lesions Reactions at infusion site: Itching or rash **HEPATIC** Common Yellowing of the skin or eyes (jaundice) Pain in the upper right part of the stomach Bleeding or bruising more easily than normal Dark urine

GASTROINTESTINAL

Very common Frequent and loose bowel movements Weight loss	
Common	
Diarrhea or an increase in the number of bowel movements you have Stools that are black, tar-like, stick, or stools with blood or mucou Constipation Severe stomach pain or tenderness Nausea or vomiting Ulcers in the mouth or nose, throat	JS
Uncommon	
Uncommon Changes in appetite or thirst Difficulty chewing or swallowing Weight gain Abdominal pain, accompanied by nausea or vomiting** Sore throat Diarrhea (with loose and oily stools) associated with bloating and abdominal discomfort	



Very common Anxiety or nervousness Common Unusual tiredness Persistent or unusual headaches Dizziness or fainting Muscle aches Uncommon Confusion or memory problems Seizures Pain, numbness, tingling, or weakness in the arms or legs Muscle problems, such as muscle cramps, spasms, pain, or weakness Severe or persistent muscle or joint pains Changes in eyesight, eye pain, or other eye problems Drooping eyelids Reaction to infusions: Dizziness or feeling faint



RESPIRATORY

Very common

Shortness of breath

Common

- Chest pain
- Coughing
- Deepening of your voice

Uncommon

Reactions to infusion: Shortness of breath or wheezing



RENAL/UROLOGIC

Uncommon

- Unusually frequent urination
- Urinary incontinence or difficulty urinating
- Dark or unusually coloured urine



HEMATOLOGIC

Poor production of new blood cells, called aplastic anemia

Blood Pressure Information and Log

When taking pembrolizumab and axitinib, it is important to monitor your blood pressure. This should be done 1 week after first treatment, then every 2 weeks for the first 2 months, and then at least monthly thereafter during treatment. This can be done using an at-home blood pressure monitor or the blood pressure monitors available at many local pharmacies and community health centres. If you are purchasing a monitor for at-home use, look for a statement of recommendation from Hypertension Canada on the package.

Please list any blood pressure medications you are currently taking below:	

Prior to taking your blood pressure, please ensure you do the following:

- Try to rest or relax for at least 30 minutes before you check your blood pressure
- Do not smoke
- Do not have any drinks with caffeine, such as pop, coffee or tea
- Take your blood pressure at approximately the same time of day

While taking your blood pressure, please ensure you do the following:

- Remove any tight clothing from your arm or wrist
- Check your blood pressure in a quiet room
- Sit down and stretch out your arm on a table and keep your arm at about the level of your heart
- Let your arm relax
- Make sure that your legs are not crossed
- Follow the directions that accompany the machine you are using

Please see the next page for a blood pressure log to use during your treatment.

PLEASE USE THIS TREATMENT DIARY TO RECORD YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE INFORMATION FOR EACH CYCLE.

CYCLE	

Date of pembrolizumab infusion:	
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IMPORTANT: Please record and report even minor symptoms. All side effects must be reported to your cancer care team.

Axitinib	If y	Blood pressure (after the first week of treatment, then every 2 weeks for 2 months, then monthly) If your blood pressure is greater than 170 mmHg (systolic) and 95 mmHg (diastolic) please call your cancer car				
Date	AM	PM	Time of Day	BP Reading (mmHg) Systolic/Diastolic (e.g., 120/80)	Comments (e.g., right or left arm)	

