

PANITUMUMAB

(PAN-i-TOOM-ue-mab)

Other name: Vectibix ®

Appearance: Colourless solution for injection into the bloodstream

Why it is used

- For treating colorectal cancer

Before using it

- Tell your doctor if you have / have had lung problems or any allergies.

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

- Do not use Panitumumab if you are pregnant. If there is ANY chance that you or your partner may become pregnant, you and your partner together must:
 - ✓ **Use 2 effective forms of birth control at the same time** while on Panitumumab. Keep using birth control until **6 months** after the last dose.
- Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant.
- Do not breastfeed while on Panitumumab treatment and for 2 months after treatment ends.

How it is given

- Panitumumab is given through a vein.

While taking it

- Other drugs can affect blood levels of Panitumumab. Make sure that your doctor and pharmacist have a complete list and any new changes of all your medicines and supplements. These also include non-prescriptions, vitamins and herbals. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting or stopping any medicines / supplements.

*Additional symptom control information can be found at:

<http://www.cancercare.on.ca/toolbox/drugs/patientdruginfo/symptomcontrol/>

Download the most updated version from <http://www.cancercare.on.ca/cms/One.aspx?portalId=1377&pageId=11759>

Information presented here are events likely to take place, but some events may have been excluded.

This information sheet is only intended to be a supplement to the information provided by your healthcare provider.

For more information on this medication, please call your oncologist, pharmacist or nurse.

Prepared by the Cancer Care Ontario-Medication Information Sheets Working Group.

March 2010

Side effects and what to do

	Get emergency medical help right away	Contact doctor		What to do
		As soon as possible (office hours)	Does not improve or if severe	
More common side effects				
Rash Dry, itchy skin			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay out of the sun. Wear a hat; cover exposed skin. Use sunblock and daily moisturizer.
Nail changes (colour, pain, tenderness in nail bed, swelling of cuticles, loosening of nails)			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will slowly return to normal after treatment. Use a nail clipper to trim nails carefully. Use moisturizer for nails and cuticles. Wear gloves when doing house chores or gardening. Avoid nail polish and artificial fingernails until your nails have returned to normal.
Mild tiredness			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rest often; take naps if needed. Get up and move slowly. Eat well-balanced meals and drink plenty of fluids. Light exercise may help. Rest when feeling tired or weak. Do not drive a motor vehicle or operate machinery when feeling tired.
Poor appetite Not feel like eating Weight loss			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eat foods that you like and try to eat regular small meals. Use meal supplements if possible. See a dietitian.
Pains or cramps in the belly			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treat constipation or diarrhea.
Diarrhea			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drink plenty of fluids. Limit hot, spicy, fried foods, foods/drinks with caffeine, orange or prune juice. Try the BRAT diet (Bananas, Rice, Apple sauce, Toast). Take anti-diarrhea drug(s) if given to you by your doctor. Also see Diarrhea pamphlet.*

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More common side effects (continued)				
Constipation			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eat a high fibre diet with whole grains, fruits and raw vegetables. • Drink plenty of fluids. Try light exercise. • Phone your doctor if you have not had a bowel movement for 3 or more days (or 2 days, if you are using regular laxatives), or have severe bloating or belly pain. • Also see Constipation Pamphlet.*
Mild swelling in arms and legs; Puffiness			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep your feet up when sitting. Eat a low salt diet. • Avoid tight fitting clothing.
Growth of eyelashes			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let your doctor know if this bothers you.
Less common side effects				
Joint, back or muscle pain			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May take 1 to 2 Regular Strength acetaminophen (Tylenol®) tablets every 4 hours, as needed for aches and pains. • Rest often, but may try light exercise.
Salt imbalances	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch for rapid, fluttering or pounding heartbeat, muscle twitching or jerking, severe muscle weakness or cramping, or confusion
Sores in the mouth or the lips			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain good mouth hygiene. Brush teeth often with a soft toothbrush or toothette. • Avoid hot, spicy, acidic, hard or crunchy foods. • Avoid commercial mouthwashes with alcohol. Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist to recommend an alcohol-free mouthwash. • Check with your doctor or nurse as soon as you notice sores in mouth or lips. • Also see Mouth Care pamphlet.*
Blocked intestines	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch for severe pain in the belly, bloating, or severe constipation with or without nausea/vomiting

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Less common side effects (continued)				
Eye problems		✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch for recent or worsening eye pain, redness, irritation, tearing or vision changes
Anemia (Pale skin, weakness, breathlessness)			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rest often. Eat well-balanced meals. • Light exercise may help. Keep activity times short with breaks in-between. • Do not drive a car or operate heavy machinery if you feel dizzy, lightheaded, or sleepy. • Some patients may need medication or blood transfusion to correct low red blood cells. • Also see Anemia pamphlet.*
Severe headache, dizziness, fainting or loss of consciousness	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be due to a significant rise or fall in blood pressure
Dehydration	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch for tiredness, weakness, extreme dry mouth/skin and thirst, passing little or no urine
Kidney problems	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch for pain on lower back side of the body, passing little or no urine, recent swelling in the legs, ankles, or feet, or recent unusual weight gain
Drug reaction	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch for fever, chills, dizziness, flushing, itchiness, rash, trouble breathing, chest tightness, or throat swelling during and shortly after the infusion
Rare side effects				
Lung problems	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch for recent or worsening dry cough, wheezing, breathlessness, trouble breathing, chest pain (may feel worse when you cough or take deep breaths), or coughing up blood
Blood clot	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch for calf pain or swelling, tenderness or hardened vein in leg(s)

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