

Rx CETUXIMAB

(Cetuximab is a recombinant monoclonal antibody)



Generic Name : Cetuximab

Pronunciation : seh TUX ih mah

TradeName : Erbitux

Overview :

- Cetuximab is a recombinant monoclonal antibody (antibody produced from a single clone of cell)
- It binds to Epidermal Growth Factor Receptors (EGFR) of cancer cells and inhibits their activation. This stops the cancer cells from dividing.
- It is a sterile, clear, colorless liquid with pH between 7.0 to 7.4.
- It is supplied as a 50 ml vial at a concentration of 2 mg/mL in phosphate - buffered saline.

Why it is prescribed (Indications) :

- Cetuximab, along with radiation therapy, is used for patients with locally or regionally advanced squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck.
- It is given to patients with recurrent or metastatic squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck, for whom platinum- based therapy had failed.
- In combination with Irinotecan, Cetuximab is used for treatment of patients with colorectal carcinoma.
- It is prescribed, as a single agent, to patients with metastatic colorectal carcinoma with intolerance to Irinotecan- based therapy.

When it is not to be taken (Contraindications) :

- There are no known contraindications for Cetuximab.

How it should be taken :

- It is given intravenously as a drip. It should not be administered as an IV push or bolus but as an IV infusion pump or infusion syringe
- Initially it is given slowly, for two hours.
- The recommended dose of the first infusion or loading dose of Cetuximab is 400 mg/m², either in combination with Irinotecan or as a single agent
- All the other infusions given weekly, known as maintenance dose , with a concentration of 250 mg/m², is given for an hour.
- It should be given with the use of a low protein binding 0.22-micrometer in-line filter.

Special Instruction :

- No drug interaction has been reported for Cetuximab.

Side Effects :

The following are the list of side effects due to Cetuximab.

- Feeling of weakness
- Fever
- Headache
- Nausea
- Constipation
- Anorexia
- Breathlessness
- Vomiting
- Dehydration
- Pharyngitis
- Acne- like rashes

Other Precautions :

- While using Cetuximab, patients are advised to use sun screen, hats and limit exposure to the sun, as it may exacerbate any skin reaction that may occur.
- Cetuximab, in combination with radiation therapy, should be used with caution in patients with known history of coronary artery disease, arrhythmias and congestive heart failure.

Storage Conditions :

- The vials should be stored at 2°C to 8°C
- They should never be frozen.
- Prepared Cetuximab infusions are chemically and physically stable for up to 12 hours at 2°C to 8°C and up to 8 hours at 20°C to 25°C.

- Unused portions of the vials must be discarded.

Note : This product information is intended only for residents of the India. Taj Pharmaceuticals Limited, medicines help to treat and prevent a range of conditions—from the most common to the most challenging—for people around the world.



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Revised November 2010