Panitumumab (pan i TOOM oo mab)

Patient Education

US Brand Names: Vectibix
Therapeutic Category: monoclonal antibody, targeted therapy

What is this medicine used for?
Used to treat colorectal cancer providing that the tumor does not have a mutation in the kras gene.

How does it work?
Monoclonal antibodies (MoAbs) such as Panitumumab react with certain markers on the surface of cells in your body. This medicine can be made to target (targeted therapy) a marker on a certain type of cancer cell and kill it or stop its growth. Some MoAbs will affect a cancer cell and some normal cells that have the same marker as the cancer cell. Panitumumab targets the epidermal growth factor receptors (EGFR) on the surface of cells in your body. This receptor is present on many types of cancer cells. EGFR is also present on epidermal (skin) cells in your body.

What should my doctor or nurse know before I take this medication?
- If you are allergic to any medicines.
- If you are taking other over-the-counter or prescription medicines, including vitamins and herbal remedies.
- If you are, or may be pregnant.
- If you are breast feeding.

How is this drug given?
- This medicine is given into a vein.

What are the general precautions when taking this medicine?
- If you or your partner can get pregnant, use birth control during your treatment.
- Once completing treatment, discuss the timing for discontinuing birth control measures with your provider. (pt. teaching sheet fertility)

What are the common side effects of this medicine?
- Mild to severe skin rash/reactions may occur. These changes may include blemishes or acne like rash on
your skin, dry itchy skin and skin fissures (cracks) that typically occur around the finger or toe nails. Limit sun exposure and use sunblock.
- Diarrhea or loose bowel movements.
- Allergic reactions may occur during the infusion. This will be monitored and you will be given medication to manage the reaction.

Danger signals to report immediately to your doctor or nurse:

- Signs or symptoms of infection. This include a fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or greater, chills, severe sore throat, ear or sinus pain, cough, increased sputum or change in color, painful urination, mouth sores, wound that will not heal, or anal itching or pain.
- Severe nausea or vomiting or diarrhea not controlled by medication.
- Not able to eat or drink.
- Bleeding from your nose, mouth, gums, or in your urine or bowel movements. Bruising that does not heal.
- Feeling extremely tired, weak, dizzy or light headed.

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