

Questions to ask your doctor:

Questions about your diagnosis

What kind of cancer do I have?
What is HER2 positive cancer?
What stage is my cancer and how does it affect my treatment options?

What are my treatment options?

How long will I need to stay on these treatments?
How will I know this treatment is working?
What are the chances my cancer will come back after treatment?

How will Herceptin help me?

How do I get Herceptin for Gastric cancer if it is not available in a public hospital?
How much is it likely to cost?
Who can I talk to regarding funding/health insurance to help me pay for Herceptin?
How long will I need to be on Herceptin?
How will I know if the treatment is working?
What side effects can I expect to have?

NOTES:



Herceptin Gastric Cancer Consumer Panel

Herceptin® (trastuzumab), 150mg and 440mg vials, is a **Prescription Medicine** used to treat patients with metastatic (spreading) cancer of the stomach who have tumours with a large amount of the HER2 protein. Stomach cancer is also known as gastric cancer.

Do not use Herceptin if: you have had an allergic reaction to trastuzumab or any of the ingredients, benzyl alcohol, or to any medicines that are made using Chinese hamster ovary cells.

Tell your doctor if: you have a history of coronary artery disease, high blood pressure, heart failure, arrhythmia (an abnormal or rapid heartbeat), angina (feeling pain, tightness, heaviness or pressure in the chest), or any other type of heart disease; you are currently taking any other medicines, including medicines for cancer, or if you have previously received chemotherapy treatment with medicines known as anthracyclines; you have breathing or lung problems; you are pregnant or breast-feeding, or plan to become pregnant or breast-feed.

Tell your doctor immediately or go to your nearest Accident and Emergency Centre if you notice any of the following: swelling of your lips, face, tongue or throat with difficulty breathing; severe shortness of breath, difficulty breathing or wheezing; 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 heartbeat; severe swelling of the hands, feet or legs; severe coughing. **Possible common side effects may also include:** getting tired more easily after light physical activity; shortness of breath, especially when lying down or if it disturbs your sleep; runny or blocked nose or nosebleeds; difficulty sleeping, anxiety or depression; weakness or soreness in muscles and/or joints; increased cough; feeling dizzy, tired, looking pale; flu and/or cold symptoms; frequent infections with fever, severe chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers; hot flushes; diarrhoea; changes in weight; redness, dryness or peeling of the hands or feet; unusual hair loss or thinning; nail problems; eye problems such as producing more tears, swollen runny eyes or conjunctivitis (eye infection).

Herceptin has risks and benefits. Ask your oncologist if Herceptin is right for you. Use strictly as directed. If symptoms continue or you have side effects, see your healthcare professional. For further information on Herceptin, please talk to your healthcare professional or visit www.medsafe.govt.nz for Herceptin Consumer Medicine Information.

Herceptin is not funded by PHARMAC for the treatment of HER2-positive gastric cancer. You will need to pay the full cost of this medicine. A prescription charge and normal oncologist's fees may apply.

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