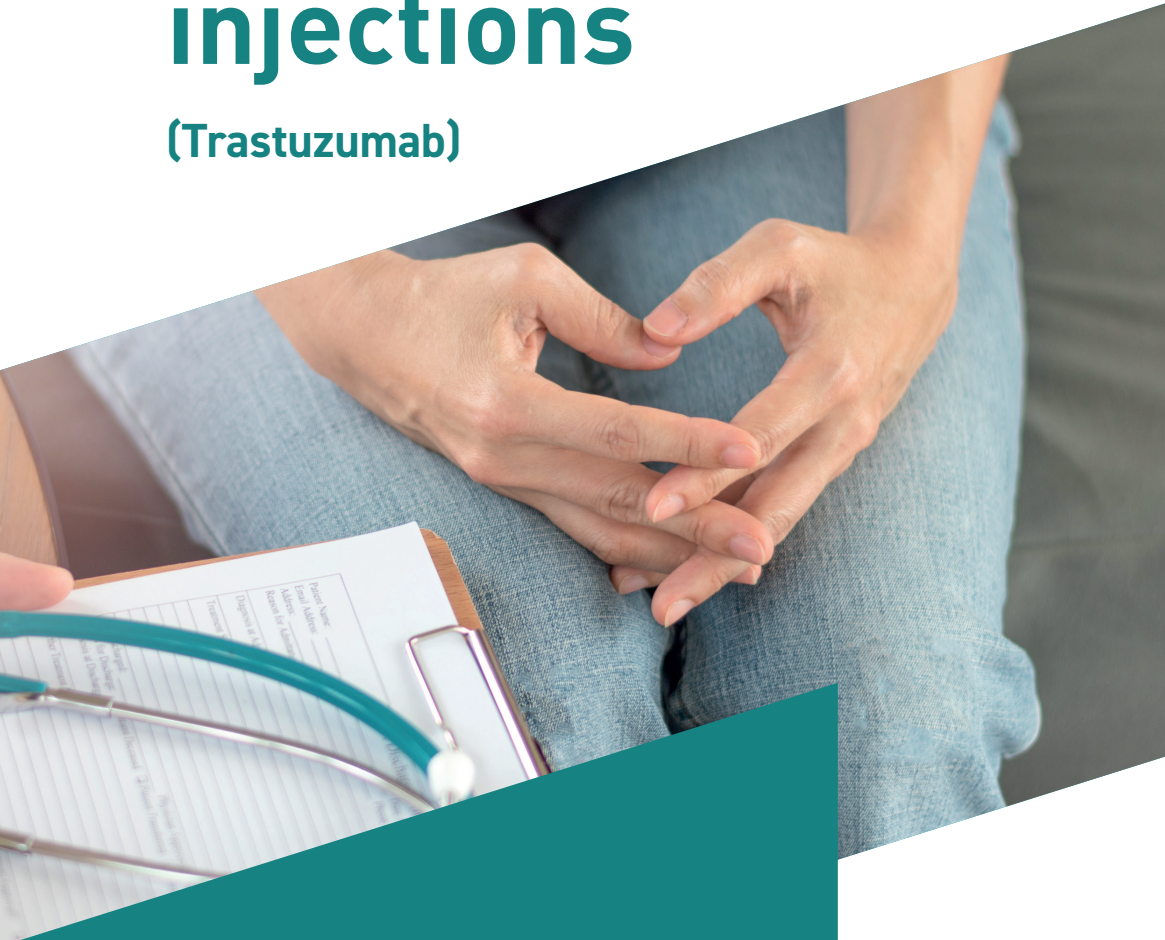


Herceptin[®] injections



(Trastuzumab)



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What is Herceptin?

Herceptin contains an active substance called Trastuzumab. The advantage of this treatment is that it mainly inhibits the growth of malignant cells without causing much damage to the body's healthy cells. You will therefore experience fewer side effects during this treatment than with chemotherapy. Because the immune system is stimulated, it is also called immunotherapy.



How is Herceptin administered?

Herceptin is administered under the skin (subcutaneously) in the thigh or stomach fold. Preferably, the location will be alternated. The administration takes about five minutes, the product is colourless and may cause a slight stinging sensation at the start and/or end.

The therapy is administered every three weeks for one year or 18 administrations. An ultrasound of the heart will be done every three months.



Warnings for use of Herceptin

When should you not use this medicine?

- You are allergic to Trastuzumab (the active ingredient in Herceptin). You have serious breathing problems at rest due to your cancer, or you need oxygen administration.
- During pregnancy and/or breastfeeding.

Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist about all the medicines you are taking, not only those that have been prescribed for you but also those that you have bought without a prescription.

Possible side effects

If you experience any side effects, please inform the nurse at the next treatment. Possibly something can be done about it. There are a number of reasons to call the doctor/oncology nurse or the hospital immediately. See the form 'Reasons to call the oncology nurse/doctor.'

After the administration of Herceptin, reactions such as fever, difficulty breathing, chills, skin rash and a drop in blood pressure may occur. These complaints are temporary.

What you might notice:

- Muscle pain (often in the legs).
- Pain in the joints and bones.
- Headache.
- Sometimes fever and chills.

- Local skin reactions:
 - A local skin reaction may occur with the subcutaneous administration of Herceptin. This reaction can manifest itself in different ways. There may be local swelling at the injection site, and you may experience a slight stinging sensation at the start and end of the injection.
- Heart problems
 - The treatment you receive can affect your heart. The muscle cells can become damaged, which reduces the functioning of the heart muscle. This reduces the pumping power of your heart or makes it beat irregularly.

Questions?



If you have any questions about the treatment with Herceptin injections, you can contact the oncology nurse on workdays during office hours on telephone number: 780 0493.



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