

Chapter 11: Frequently asked questions about your treatment with KEYTRUDA and axitinib

This chapter is part of a series of materials.
For more information, and to access further
materials, please visit www.KEYTRUDA.co.uk

For patients being treated with KEYTRUDA® (pembrolizumab) in combination with axitinib for advanced renal cell carcinoma

Your healthcare team should have provided you with materials to help you identify any side effects you may experience on your treatment. Ensure you read the Patient Safety Information Brochure and carry your Patient Alert Card with you at all times.

It is important to be aware of side effects. Telling your healthcare professional straight away as soon as you notice any symptoms may stop them from becoming more serious.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DIAGNOSE OR TREAT SIDE EFFECTS YOURSELF.

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in the package leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at: <https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/> or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store. Adverse events should also be reported to Merck Sharp & Dohme Limited (tel: 01992 467272). By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.



Frequently asked questions about your treatment with KEYTRUDA and axitinib

It is normal to have lots of questions about your treatment and the lifestyle changes you may have to make.

While this list covers some common questions, it is important to talk to a healthcare professional if you are worried about any aspect of your treatment.

FAQs

Taking KEYTRUDA

Q: How long does an infusion take?

- Once your nurse has helped to connect the drip, each infusion takes 30 minutes. You may be at the infusion unit for up to 2 hours in total.



Q: What should I do if I can't get to my infusion appointment?

- If you miss an infusion appointment, or you know you won't be able to make it in future - call your doctor or clinic right away who will help you reschedule your appointment
- It is very important that you do not miss a dose of this medicine unless your healthcare professional has told you otherwise

Frequently asked questions

Taking axitinib

Q: Can I eat before taking my axitinib tablets?

- Axitinib can be taken with or without food, 12 hours apart. Tablets should be swallowed whole with a glass of water



Q: What should I do if I took too many tablets?

- If you accidentally take too many tablets or a higher dose than you need, **contact your healthcare team for advice right away**

Q: What should I do if I forgot to take my tablets?

- If you miss a dose, take the next dose at the usual time

Q: I was sick soon after taking my axitinib tablets, what should I do?

- If you are sick, do not take another dose. Take the next dose at the usual time
- If you feel very unwell, or you are throwing up, contact a healthcare professional immediately as vomiting may be a sign of a more serious side effect

Q: Why are my axitinib tablets different shapes?

- The standard dose (5 mg) of axitinib is a red triangular shape
- If they think it is best for you, your doctor may decide to alter the dose you receive and it could go up or down
- The other shapes of axitinib are a round shape (for the 3 mg dose) and an oval shape (for the 1 mg dose)
- For more information about axitinib, talk to your healthcare professional, your pharmacist or visit <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/files/pil.4325.pdf>

Frequently asked questions

Other medications

Q: I am already taking medication for another condition; can I continue these treatments?

- Before starting your treatment, your healthcare team will ask you what other medications you are already taking and give you personalised advice about whether they need to be stopped or not
- It is important to tell a healthcare professional before you start taking any other prescribed or over-the-counter medicines, for example, paracetamol and antibiotics

Q: Can I get a flu vaccine whilst on treatment

- Always discuss any vaccine or medicine with a healthcare professional first. Your healthcare team may recommend a flu vaccination if they think you are at particular risk. Flu vaccines do not contain a live virus so are considered suitable for patients receiving KEYTRUDA and axitinib



Always discuss any vaccine or medicine with a healthcare professional first

Q: What vaccinations am I able to get?

- Whilst receiving KEYTRUDA and axitinib, it is not recommended to have a 'live' vaccine
- In the UK, live vaccines include measles, mumps, rubella, yellow fever and the shingles vaccine (Zostavax). Ask a healthcare professional before you have these or any other injections

Frequently asked questions

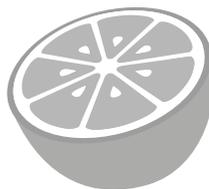
Food and drink

Q: Do I need to change my diet whilst on treatment?

- While you can continue to eat most foods whilst receiving treatment, a balanced and healthy diet will help you to maintain your strength and keep you in good shape
- Your dietician can also provide you with advice about foods which can help you during your treatment

Q: Are there any foods which I should be avoiding whilst on treatment?

- Avoid eating grapefruit or drinking juices which contain grapefruit juice. This is because grapefruit contains a chemical can interfere with how your treatment works
- Axitinib tablets contain lactose. If you are lactose intolerant, talk to your healthcare professional



Q: What should I do if I forgot to take my tablets?

- If you miss a dose, take the next dose at the usual time

Q: Can I still drink alcohol whilst on treatment?

- While alcohol is allowed, cutting down on the amount you drink is recommended while receiving treatment as part of maintaining a healthy lifestyle

Frequently asked questions

Work and lifestyle

Q: Can I continue to work?

- Your healthcare team will let you know if it's okay for you to return to work and advise you about tasks which may not be suitable for you

Q: Can I still drive?

- KEYTRUDA has a minor effect on your ability to drive or use machines. Do not drive or use machines after you have been given your KEYTRUDA infusion or after taking axitinib tablets unless you are sure you are feeling well. Talk to your healthcare professional if you are worried about travelling or employment
- Feeling dizzy, tired or weak is a very common side effect of both KEYTRUDA infusions and axitinib, and this can affect your ability to drive



FAQs

Frequently asked questions

Finding help

Q: Who can I turn to for more help?

- Talking can help you to get the support you need. Having cancer can be emotionally tough, but talking to you family and friends can help increase their understanding
- Help your friends and family by letting them know if you would like to talk about what's happening and how you feel
- If you find it hard to talk to family or friends, you can talk to someone independent, such as your GP or nurse specialist.
- The following helplines are also available:
 - **Cancer Research UK**
www.cancerresearchuk.org
Helpline: 0808 800 4040.
Mon–Fri 9am–5pm
 - **Macmillan Cancer Support**
www.macmillan.org.uk
Macmillan Support Line: 0808 808 00 00
 - **Kidney Cancer UK & Kidney Cancer Scotland**
www.kcuk.org.uk
Patients' support Careline: 0800 002 9002.
Mon–Fri 9am–4pm
 - **Kidney Cancer Support Network**
www.kcsn.org.uk
Helpline: 01209 890326.
Email: team@kcsn.org.uk
Mon–Fri 10am–4pm



Talking can help you to get the support you need

References

1. KEYTRUDA 50 mg powder for concentrate for solution for infusion - Summary of Product Characteristics (Last updated August 2020)
2. Inlyta Patient Information Leaflet (last updated in November 2019)
3. Cancer Research UK. Available at <https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/> (Accessed September 2020)
4. Keytruda Patient Information Leaflet (last updated in June 2020)

