



Chapter 12: Knowing what to ask about your KEYTRUDA and axitinib treatment

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.



Knowing what to ask about your treatment



Learning that you have been prescribed a new set of medicines can be confusing and overwhelming.

When a doctor says “do you have any questions?” it can be hard to know what to ask.

Below are some example or suggested questions that you can take to your appointments and can help you understand more about your treatment and what to expect. This is not a full list of questions, but it can be a guide to help think about the ones which are relevant to you and your treatment.



Writing down the answers may help you to remember them ahead of future appointments.

Taking KEYTRUDA and axitinib

- Q:** When do I start my treatment?
- Q:** How long will I be taking this treatment for?
- Q:** How long will it be until my next scan?
- Q:** Can I go back to work?
- Q:** Can I go on holiday?
- Q:** What is an immunotherapy? Is it the same as chemotherapy?
- Q:** How does immunotherapy work?
- Q:** What is a tyrosine kinase inhibitor (TKI)? Is it a type of chemotherapy?
- Q:** How do TKIs work?



Knowing what to ask about your treatment

Asking about infusions

- Q:** How often do I have to have infusions?
- Q:** Does the infusion go into my arm?
- Q:** Will the infusion hurt?
- Q:** How long do I have to arrive at the hospital before my appointment?
- Q:** Am I able to bring someone with me?
- Q:** How long does an infusion take?
- Q:** How long will I have to stay at the hospital after my infusion?
- Q:** How will I feel immediately afterwards?
- Q:** Can I drive home afterwards?
- Q:** Can I reschedule my infusion appointment if I am busy or away?
- Q:** Can I schedule my appointments for the same day that I pick up my axitinib tablets?
- Q:** When do I need to see the consultant again?



- Q:** Is my next appointment with the consultant on the same day as an infusion?
- Q:** Should I do anything to prepare for the infusion?
- Q:** Am I able to eat and/or drink before my infusion?
- Q:** How soon can I eat and/or drink after my infusion?
- Q:** What should I wear?

Knowing what to ask about your treatment

Taking axitinib

- Q:** Where do I pick up my axitinib tablets?
- Q:** How many axitinib tablets do I pick up each time?
- Q:** Can I eat before taking my axitinib tablets?
- Q:** What should I do if I forget to take my axitinib tablets?
- Q:** Who should I contact if I run out of tablets?
- Q:** Why has my dose changed?



Writing down the answers may help you to remember them ahead of future appointments.



Side effects of KEYTRUDA in combination with axitinib

- Q:** Who should I contact first if I feel unwell?
- Q:** What side effects am I most likely to experience?
- Q:** Are there any side effects which I really need to look out for?
- Q:** Can I take anti-sickness tablets if I feel sick?

