

# Medical Oncology

## Drug Information Sheet

**Rituximab (Rituxan, Riabni, Ruxience, Truxima):** a drug to treat your cancer.

**How will you get this drug?** A Cancer Center nurse will give this drug to you through an IV or your port.

<p><b>What should I avoid while getting <i>Rituximab (Rituxan, Riabni, Ruxience, Truxima)</i>?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do NOT use Echinacea.</li> </ul>
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You **MAY OR MAY NOT** experience the side effects listed below

Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
<p><b>Increased risk for infection</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid contact with people who have infections, colds or flu.</li> <li>• Wash your hands often.</li> <li>• Report chills or a fever of 100.4° or higher to your doctor right away, day or night.</li> <li>• Report any signs or symptoms of infection, such as cough, burning with urination, skin redness or sores.</li> <li>• Call your doctor before taking any medicine for a fever or chills.</li> <li>• Your doctor may prescribe medicine to help prevent viral, bacterial or fungal infections.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Increased risk for bleeding due to decreased blood counts</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report signs of bleeding or bruising.</li> <li>• Avoid taking aspirin or aspirin products unless your doctor tells you to take it.</li> <li>• Use soft toothbrush.</li> <li>• Use electric razor.</li> <li>• Talk to your doctor before any scheduled medical or dental procedures.</li> <li>• Call your doctor if you have:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Severe headache.</li> <li>○ Blood in stools or urine.</li> <li>○ Bleeding for a long period.</li> <li>○ Uncontrolled bleeding.</li> <li>○ Bruising.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Lower than normal red blood cells</b> Anemia</p>	<p>Call you doctor if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ shortness of breath with activity</li> <li>○ fatigue</li> <li>○ dizziness</li> <li>○ fast heartbeat or a heartbeat that does not feel normal</li> <li>○ headache</li> </ul>

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<b>Possible Side Effects:</b>	<b>• What to do:</b>
<b>Fatigue or weakness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may be more tired than usual or have less energy.</li> <li>• Stay as active as possible, but know it is okay to rest as needed.</li> <li>• Try to do some activity every day.</li> <li>• Plan your activities, and do them at a time of day when you feel more energetic.</li> <li>• Avoid driving or doing other tasks that call for you to be alert.</li> </ul>
<b>Neuropathy</b> Numbness or tingling in hands or feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell the doctor if this occurs or worsens.</li> <li>• Be careful because you may not feel an injury to your hands or feet that have reduced feeling or numbness.</li> <li>• Check areas that are numb for redness or open sores. Do this every day.</li> <li>• Apply cream or lotion to your hands and feet.</li> <li>• Avoid wearing tight footwear.</li> <li>• Avoid standing for long periods of time.</li> <li>• May continue even after treatment has stopped.</li> <li>• These nerve problems can get worse the more times you get this drug.</li> <li>• Sometimes, these nerve problems have not gone back to normal.</li> </ul>
<b>Infusion-related reactions</b> Up to 24 hours after infusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call the nurse right away for unusual feelings, such as:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ hot or flushed face and neck</li> <li>○ fever 100.4° or higher</li> <li>○ chills</li> <li>○ pain in the abdomen or back</li> <li>○ trouble breathing or wheezing</li> <li>○ chest tightness</li> <li>○ swelling of your face, lips or tongue</li> <li>○ a rash</li> <li>○ itching</li> <li>○ hives</li> <li>○ cough</li> <li>○ runny or stuffy nose</li> </ul> </li> <li>• This is not an allergic reaction. This is your immune system working. Once your body has relaxed, the infusion can be restarted.</li> <li>• You will receive medicines before your treatment to help prevent a reaction. There will be a 30 minute wait <b>after</b> your pre-medicines before you receive your treatment.</li> <li>• Call 911 or go to the Emergency Department right away if you have any symptoms after you return home.</li> <li>• Highest risk with first and second infusions.</li> <li>• Your first dose will be given at a slower rate.</li> </ul>

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<b>Possible Side Effects:</b>	<b>• What to do:</b>
<b>Fever or shivering</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink caffeine free fluids to stay well hydrated.</li> <li>• Report chills or a fever of 100.4° or higher to your doctor right away, day or night.</li> <li>• Report any signs or symptoms of infection, such as cough, burning with urination, skin redness or sores.</li> <li>• Call your doctor before taking any medicine for a fever or chills.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Rituximab (Rituxan, Riabni, Ruxience, Truxima)</i> will be in urine and stool for 48 hours.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caregivers will need to handle soiled linens and clothing wearing gloves or using a bag as a barrier.</li> <li>• Keep your soiled items separate from others' dirty laundry and wash right away.</li> <li>• Women who are pregnant should not handle your soiled clothing or linens.</li> <li>• Wash any skin that body waste has touched with soap and water.</li> <li>• You may use the same toilet that you normally use.</li> <li>• If the toilet or toilet seat becomes dirty with urine, stool or vomit, clean the surfaces before other people use the toilet</li> <li>• Wash hands with soap and water after using the toilet.</li> <li>• <b>It is safe to hug and kiss.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Avoid pregnancy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if you take it while you are pregnant. If you are pregnant or you get pregnant while taking this drug, call your doctor right away.</li> <li>• Use birth control that you can trust to prevent pregnancy while taking this drug and for 12 months after stopping this drug.</li> <li>• If you or your sex partner gets pregnant while taking this drug or within 12 months after stopping this drug, call your doctor right away.</li> <li>• May cause fertility problems.</li> </ul>

### Less common side effects that may happen

Less common side effects	What to do:
<b>Hepatitis B reactivation</b>	Your doctor will do blood tests to check for Hepatitis B before starting <i>Rituximab (Rituxan, Riabni, Ruxience, Truxima)</i> and monitor you throughout your treatment.
<b>Tears in the stomach or intestine</b>	Call your doctor right away if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ severe, ongoing abdominal pain</li> <li>○ fever 100.4° or higher</li> <li>○ stomach pain that does not go away</li> <li>○ a change in your bowel habits</li> </ul>

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Less common side effects	What to do:
<p><b>PML</b> Rare infection that damages nerves</p>	<p>Call your doctor if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ general weakness that steadily gets worse</li> <li>○ clumsiness and balance issues or difficulty walking</li> <li>○ sensory loss</li> <li>○ difficulty using your arms and legs</li> <li>○ loss of vision</li> <li>○ trouble speaking</li> <li>○ weak muscles</li> <li>○ facial drooping</li> <li>○ personality changes</li> <li>○ memory problems and mental slowness</li> </ul>
<p><b>Severe skin and mouth reactions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use a moisturizing cream free from alcohol, perfume or dye at least twice a day.</li> <li>● When outside, use sunscreen and wear clothing and eyewear that protects you from the sun. Choose mild soaps.</li> <li>● Use tepid water, rather than hot water.</li> <li>● Wear loose-fitting cotton clothing.</li> <li>● Apply cool, wet cloth to soothe skin.</li> <li>● Avoid using perfumes and cologne.</li> <li>● Avoid rubbing and scratching.</li> <li>● Call your doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A skin rash.</li> <li>○ Red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin.</li> <li>○ Red or irritated eyes.</li> <li>○ Sores in your mouth, throat, nose or eyes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Your doctor may prescribe anti-inflammation creams or antibiotics by mouth.</li> <li>● Your doctor may prescribe steroids.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tumor Lysis Syndrome</b> Caused by rapid tumor cell death</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Drink plenty of caffeine free fluids to stay well hydrated.</li> <li>● Call your doctor right away if you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ have a fast heartbeat or a heartbeat that does not feel normal</li> <li>○ pass out</li> <li>○ have trouble passing urine</li> <li>○ have muscle weakness or cramps</li> <li>○ have an upset stomach</li> <li>○ are throwing up</li> <li>○ have loose stools</li> <li>○ fever</li> <li>○ chills</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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Less common side effects	What to do:
<b>Tumor Lysis Syndrome</b> (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ confusion</li> <li>○ shortness of breath</li> <li>○ seizure</li> <li>○ dark or cloudy urine</li> <li>○ unusual tiredness</li> </ul>
<b>Heart problems (rare)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Call 911 or go to the Emergency Room right away if you have:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fast heartbeat or a heartbeat that does not feel normal.</li> <li>○ Trouble breathing or shortness of breath.</li> <li>○ Chest discomfort.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Call your doctor right away if you have:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increased or unexplained cough.</li> <li>○ Swelling in feet or legs.</li> <li>○ Sudden weight gain of more than 3 pounds in a day.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Changes in kidney function</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Kidney function can be affected.</li> <li>● Electrolytes and kidney function will be checked.</li> <li>● Talk to you doctor before taking NSAIDs (Ibuprofen, Motrin, Aleve).</li> <li>● To help maintain good kidney function stay well hydrated with water and non-caffeine liquids.</li> <li>● Notify your doctor if you have:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ changes in mood or confusion</li> <li>○ smaller amount of urine than normal</li> <li>○ blood in urine</li> <li>○ swelling in ankles</li> <li>○ trouble emptying your bladder</li> <li>○ weight gain</li> <li>○ painful urination</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS)</b>	<p>Call your doctor right away if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ chills</li> <li>○ dizziness</li> <li>○ increased tiredness or weakness</li> <li>○ fever</li> <li>○ headache</li> <li>○ passed out</li> <li>○ rash</li> <li>○ swelling of the face</li> <li>○ trouble breathing</li> <li>○ upset stomach or are throwing up</li> <li>○ wheezing</li> </ul>
<p><b>These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor.</b></p>	