

ZEVALIN REGIMEN INFORMATION

General Information

The Zevalin regimen is cancer therapy for patients with certain types of B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL). Zevalin combines a monoclonal antibody with a radioisotope. The monoclonal antibody in Zevalin recognizes and attaches to a particular part of a B-cell, called the CD-20 antigen. This allows Zevalin to specifically target B-cells, destroying the malignant NHL B-cells and also some normal B-cells.

The Zevalin regimen consists of 3 components: Rituxan, Indium-111 Zevalin and Yttrium-90 Zevalin. The entire Zevalin regimen takes 7-9 days. Your doctor will provide you with a separate patient brochure explaining the Rituxan portion of your treatment that integrates with the Zevalin regimen.

Most people are able to continue their usual activities, including work, after receiving the Zevalin regimen. You may continue your usual activities provided your doctor tells you that it is OK and you follow the safety precautions outlined below and any other precautions your doctor recommends.

Before your treatment with Zevalin

No special preparations are necessary before you receive the Zevalin regimen. However, your physician may have certain recommendations for you to follow. You do not need to change what you normally eat and drink and you can continue with your usual daily activities. You may wear your regular clothes to receive your treatment.

During your treatment with Zevalin

You will receive two separate infusions of Rituxan, one before you receive Indium-111 Zevalin and a second before you receive Yttrium-90 Zevalin. Each Rituxan infusion may take several hours to complete.

Treatment with Indium-111 Zevalin and Yttrium-90 Zevalin will be given by nuclear medicine staff while you are in the oncology facility. Each infusion will last approximately 10 minutes. A healthcare professional will stay with you to monitor your treatment.

Some people have experienced side effects such as weakness, abdominal or back pain, shortness of breath, cough, chills, throat irritation, fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, dizziness and rash. If you experience any of these side effects or have other problems, immediately tell the person who is administering your Zevalin.

After your treatment with Zevalin

No isolation from family and friends is required.

Follow your physician's recommendations regarding going home or back to work after receiving the Zevalin regimen.

From the start of therapy until 1 week after treatment is completed, use a condom during sexual intercourse, refrain from deep kissing and avoid transfer of other bodily fluids (urine, saliva, blood and stool). It is also important to wash your hands thoroughly after using the toilet. Throughout therapy and for up to 12 months following treatment, effective contraception is recommended.

Important safety Information For Zevalin Therapy

The most common severe side effect of the Zevalin regimen is a decrease in blood cell counts. Low blood cell counts can occur up to 2 months following completion of the Zevalin regimen, and counts may remain low for a few weeks. Your body is usually able to recover normal blood counts within a few weeks. Your doctor may provide you with special instructions if your blood counts become too low.

Other common side effects related to treatment with the Zevalin regimen may occur, but are generally mild in severity. These may include nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea, cough, shortness of breath, dizziness, tiredness, loss of appetite, joint pain, nervousness and bruising.

Warnings

Rituxan has been associated with a severe type of allergic reaction. Although this reaction occurs infrequently, some people have died within 24 hours of receiving an infusion of Rituxan, an essential part of the Zevalin regimen. These deaths were related to a reaction to the Rituxan infusion characterized by a number of symptoms, including a low blood oxygen level, fluid in the lungs, severe difficulty in breathing, heart attack, disturbed heart rhythm, or a disruption in bodily functions related to a sudden decline in heart function. Approximately 80% of fatal infusion reactions occurred with the first dose of Rituxan. Patients who develop severe infusion reactions should have their Rituxan or Zevalin infusions stopped and receive medical treatment.

Treatment with Yttrium-90 Zevalin can result in very decreased blood cell counts for a prolonged period of time. The Zevalin regimen should not be given to patients who have bone marrow that contains >25% lymphoma cells, and/or patients whose bone marrow may have difficulty recovering from therapy.

Because Indium-111 Zevalin and Yttrium-90 Zevalin contain radioisotopes, they can only be given by doctors and other professionals who are specially trained and experienced in the safe use and handling of radioisotopes. The following guidelines are to ensure safe administration of the Zevalin regimen.

The dose of Yttrium-90 Zevalin that you receive should not exceed the maximum allowable dose of 32 mCi (1, 184 MBq), which is a measurement of radiation.

You should not be given Yttrium-90 Zevalin if the imaging tests performed with Indium-111 Zevalin Show an altered pattern of distribution.

You should notify your doctor Immediately if:

- You develop shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- You develop a fever
- You develop signs of infection such as sore throat, cough, chills, redness, inflammation or pain when urinating
- You develop a rash or soreness in your joints
- You develop bleeding or bruising