

Ramucirumab and Paclitaxel

Care Team Contact Information: _____

Pharmacy Contact Information: _____

Diagnosis: _____

- This treatment is often used for cancer of the stomach (gastric cancer) or cancer located where the esophagus joins the stomach (gastroesophageal junction (GEJ) cancer).
- It may also be used for other reasons.

Goal of Treatment: _____

- Treatment may continue for a certain time period, until it no longer works, or until side effects are no longer controlled.

Treatment Regimen

Treatment Name	How the Treatment Works	How the Treatment is Given
Ramucirumab (RA-myoo-SIR-yoo-mab): Cyramza (sy-RAM-zuh)	Slows down or stops cancer growth by blocking the blood vessels that tumors need to get the nutrients and oxygen they require.	Infusion into a vein (intravenous (IV) infusion).
Paclitaxel (PA-klih-TAK-sil): Taxol (TAK-saal)	Slows down or stops the growth of cancer cells by preventing cancer cells from properly dividing and creating new cells.	Infusion into a vein (intravenous (IV) infusion).

Treatment Administration and Schedule

Treatment is typically repeated every 4 weeks. This length of time is called a “cycle”.

- Ramucirumab is given on Days 1 and 15.
- Paclitaxel is given on Days 1, 8, and 15.

Treatment Name	Cycle 1									Next Cycle
	Day 1	...	Day 8	...	Day 15	...	Day 22	...	Day 28	Day 1
Ramucirumab	✓				✓					✓
Paclitaxel	✓		✓		✓					✓

Appointments

Appointments may include regular check-ups with your care team, treatment appointments, lab visits, and imaging tests. It's important to keep your appointments whenever you can. If you miss any appointments, call your care provider as soon as possible to reschedule your appointment.

Supportive Care to Prevent and Treat Side Effects

Description	Supportive Care Given at the Clinic or Hospital	Supportive Care Taken at Home
To help lower the risk of infusion-related reactions	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
To help prevent or treat nausea and vomiting	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Other	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Common Side Effects

Side Effect	Important Information
Low White Blood Cell (WBC) Count (Neutropenia) and Increased Risk of Infection	<p>Description: WBCs help protect your body from infections. A low WBC count increases your risk of infection.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash your hands often and bathe regularly. Avoid crowded places and close contact with people who are sick. Follow food safety and wound care advice from your care team. Your care team may prescribe medicine to help your WBCs recover. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher Chills New or worsening cough or sore throat Painful urination or signs of a urinary infection Feeling much more tired than usual Red, swollen, warm, or painful areas on the skin (possible skin infection)
Low Red Blood Cell (RBC) Count and Hemoglobin (Hgb) (Anemia)	<p>Description: RBCs and Hgb carry oxygen to your body's tissues and remove carbon dioxide. Low RBC or Hgb (anemia) can make you feel weak, very tired, or look pale.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim for 7 to 8 hours of sleep each night. Do not drive, operate heavy machinery, or do other dangerous activities if you are very tired. Balance activity and rest — stay as active as you can, but rest when needed. Eat a balanced diet and follow any nutrition or supplement advice from your care team. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shortness of breath Dizziness or fainting Fast or irregular heartbeats Sudden or severe headache
Nosebleed (Epistaxis)	<p>Description: A nosebleed is bleeding from inside your nose. It can happen in one or both nostrils and may be caused by dry air, irritation, injury, or treatment-related low platelets or blood vessel changes.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a nosebleed happens, sit up and lean slightly forward. Pinch the soft part of your nose (below the bone) with your thumb and index finger for 10–15 minutes without letting go. Breathe through your mouth and stay calm. Do not tilt your head back. After the bleeding stops, avoid blowing your nose, bending over, heavy lifting, or strenuous activity for 24 hours. Use a cool-mist humidifier and saline nasal spray to keep your nose from drying out. Do not put anything in your nose (like tissues or cotton) unless your care team instructs you. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A nosebleed that does not stop after 20–30 minutes of firm pressure Very heavy bleeding or blood clots coming from your nose Frequent or repeated nosebleeds Nosebleeds along with new bruising, blood in your urine or stool, or bleeding from your gums Feeling dizzy, lightheaded, faint, or very weak during or after a nosebleed

<p>Fatigue</p>	<p>Description: Fatigue is a constant and sometimes strong feeling of tiredness.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine exercise can help reduce fatigue. Talk with your care team to find the right type and amount of activity for you. • Ask family and friends for help with daily tasks and for emotional support. • Try healthy ways to feel better, such as meditation, journaling, yoga, or guided imagery, to reduce anxiety and improve well-being. • Aim for 7 to 8 hours of sleep each night. Limit daytime naps to help you sleep better at night. • Do not drive, operate heavy machinery, or do other potentially dangerous activities if you are very tired. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tiredness that affects your daily life or prevents you from doing normal activities • Tiredness that does not get better with rest • Dizziness or weakness along with severe tiredness
<p>High Blood Pressure (Hypertension)</p>	<p>Description: High blood pressure means the force of blood against your artery walls is too high. Treatment can raise your blood pressure or make it harder to control.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise regularly, maintain a healthy weight, and limit alcohol and salt (sodium). • Take blood pressure medicines as prescribed. Your care team may change your medicines if needed. • Your care team may ask you to check and record your blood pressure at home. Bring readings to appointments. • Follow diet and lifestyle advice from your care team. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe or new headaches • Dizziness or lightheadedness • Blurred vision • Trouble breathing • Nosebleeds that do not stop • A pounding sensation in your chest, neck, or ears • Irregular or fast heartbeats • Chest pain or pressure

<p>Swelling (Edema)</p>	<p>Description: Swelling and fluid retention can occur in different areas of the body, like the legs or hands. You might notice areas feel puffy or tighter than usual.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep a daily log of swelling and note any changes in size or location. • Elevate swollen limbs when resting. • Limit salt intake. • Stay active with regular, gentle exercises. • Avoid prolonged periods of sitting or standing without movement. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swelling that suddenly worsens or spreads to other areas • Pain, redness, or warmth in the affected area • Signs of shortness of breath or difficulty breathing • Swelling is persistent and does not improve with home management • Unexpected weight gain <p>Note: Your care team may ask you to contact them if your weight increases by a certain amount over a certain time period.</p>
<p>Nausea and Vomiting</p>	<p>Description: Nausea is an uncomfortable feeling in your stomach or the need to throw up. You may or may not vomit.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eat smaller, more frequent meals. • Avoid fatty, fried, spicy, or highly sweet foods. • Eat bland foods at room temperature and drink clear liquids. • If you vomit, start with small sips of water, broth, or other clear liquids. If these stay down, try soft foods (such as gelatin, plain cornstarch pudding, yogurt, strained soup, or strained cooked cereal) and gradually return to solid foods. • Your care team may prescribe medicine for these symptoms. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vomiting for more than 24 hours • Nonstop vomiting • Signs of dehydration (very thirsty, dry mouth, dizziness, or dark urine) • Blood or coffee-ground-like appearance in your vomit • Severe stomach pain that does not go away after vomiting

<p>Low Appetite</p>	<p>Description: Loss of appetite can lead to weight loss and low energy. Small changes in when and what you eat can help maintain strength and nutrition.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be as active as you can. Do light physical activity before a meal (check with your care team before starting an exercise program). • Note times of day when your appetite is best and eat your largest meal then. • Eat 5 or 6 small meals or snacks each day. • Choose high-protein foods (beans, chicken, fish, meat, yogurt, tofu, eggs). Eat protein first during meals. • Choose higher-calorie foods (avoid “low-fat”, “fat-free”, or “diet” options when trying to gain/maintain weight). • If you feel full quickly, avoid drinking 30 minutes before a meal and drink liquids between meals; choose calorie-containing drinks rather than diet drinks. • Have a bedtime snack that’s easy to digest (for example, peanut butter and crackers). If you have reflux, wait at least 1 hour before lying down. • Try nutritious beverages (high-protein shakes or smoothies) if solid food is unappealing. • Ask your care team about liquid nutrition supplements and ways to add protein or calories (protein powder, yogurt, ice cream). <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unintentional weight loss • Little or no appetite for several days • Excessive tiredness or low energy
---------------------	--

<p>Diarrhea</p>	<p>Description: Diarrhea is loose, watery stools or more frequent bowel movements than usual. It can cause dehydration and weakness.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep track of how often you go to the bathroom each day. • Drink 8 to 10 glasses of water or other fluids daily, unless your care team tells you otherwise. • Eat small meals of mild, low-fiber foods (such as bananas, applesauce, potatoes, chicken, rice, and toast). • If you have diarrhea, avoid high-fiber foods (such as raw vegetables, fruits, and whole grains), gas-producing foods (such as broccoli and beans), dairy (such as milk and yogurt), and spicy, fried, or greasy foods. • Your care team may recommend an antidiarrheal medicine such as loperamide (Imodium). <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 or more bowel movements than normal in 24 hours • Dizziness or lightheadedness while having diarrhea • Signs of dehydration (very thirsty, dry mouth, dizziness, or dark urine) • Bloody diarrhea
<p>Numbness, Tingling, or Burning in Your Hands or Feet (Peripheral Neuropathy)</p>	<p>Description: Nerve pain and tingling are uncomfortable sensations from nerve damage or irritation. Pain may be sharp, burning, or deep. Tingling can feel like pins-and-needles or mild electric shocks, often in the hands, feet, arms, or legs.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep a daily log of pain and sensations, noting triggers and what helps or makes it worse. • Check your feet every day for cuts, sores, blisters, or color changes, especially if numbness reduces feeling. • Wear comfortable, well-fitting shoes and avoid walking barefoot if sensation is reduced. • Protect hands and feet from extreme heat or cold. • Your care team may recommend or prescribe medicines, topical treatments, physical therapy, or supplements to help with symptoms. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New or worsening “pins and needles”, burning, or numbness in your hands or feet • Trouble moving your arms or legs, or weakness • Problems with balance or frequent falls

<p>Hair Loss (Alopecia)</p>	<p>Description: Hair loss or thinning may begin days to weeks after treatment starts and usually grows back later. New growth can be a different color or texture and may not look the same as before.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider a short haircut before treatment and use scarves, hats, or wigs for comfort and confidence. • Keep your head covered outdoors to protect it from the sun and cold; use sunscreen on your uncovered scalp. • Use gentle haircare: mild shampoo, soft brush, and avoid heat styling and harsh treatments. • Ask your care team about wig prescriptions or resources for head coverings. <p>Talk to your care team if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No hair regrowth months after treatment ends • Concern about hair changes or need help finding a wig or support resources
<p>Infusion-Related Reactions</p>	<p>Description: An infusion reaction is a bad response that can happen during or shortly after receiving medicine through a vein.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your care team may prescribe medicines before your infusion to help reduce your risk of infusion reactions or make any infusion reaction less severe. • You may be monitored for infusion reactions during each infusion. • Your care team may slow down or stop your infusion, or completely stop treatment if you have an infusion reaction. <p>Get medical help right away if you develop any of the following during or after your infusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chills or shaking • Itching, rash, or flushing • Trouble breathing, wheezing, or tongue swelling • Dizziness or feeling faint • Feeling of impending doom • Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher • New or severe pain in your back or neck

Select Rare Side Effects

Side Effect	Talk to Your Care Team if You Have Any of These Signs or Symptoms	
Allergic Reactions, Including Anaphylaxis (Boxed Warning)	Get emergency medical help right away if you develop any of the following signs or symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swelling of your lips, mouth, tongue, or throat • Trouble breathing or swallowing • Raised red areas on your skin (hives) • A very fast heartbeat • You feel dizzy or faint 	
Severe Bleeding (Hemorrhage)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vomiting blood or if your vomit looks like coffee grounds • Pink or brown urine • Red or black (looks like tar) stools • Coughing up blood or blood clots • Menstrual bleeding that is heavier than normal • Unusual vaginal bleeding • Nosebleeds that happen often • Bruising • Lightheadedness 	
Low Platelet Count (Thrombocytopenia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruising easily • Frequent nose bleeds • Blood in your urine or stool • Blood in your spit after a cough 	
Blood Clots or Blockage (Thrombosis) in Your Blood Vessels (Arteries)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chest pain or pressure • Swelling or pain in your arms, back, neck, or jaw • Shortness of breath • Numbness or weakness on one side of your body • Trouble talking • Headache • Vision changes 	
A Tear in Your Stomach or Intestinal Wall (Perforation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe pain or tenderness in your stomach area (abdomen) • Swelling of the abdomen • Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher • Chills • Nausea • Vomiting • Signs of dehydration (very thirsty, dry mouth, dizziness, or dark urine) 	
Liver Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowing of your skin or the white part of your eyes (jaundice) • Severe nausea or vomiting • Pain on the right side of your stomach area (abdomen) • Dark, tea-colored urine • Bleeding or bruising more easily than normal 	
Protein in Your Urine and Possible Kidney Problems	Your care team may check your urine for protein before and during treatment. They may adjust or stop your treatment if protein is found. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swelling in your hands, arms, legs, or feet 	

<p>Changes in Thyroid Function</p>	<p>Ramucirumab can cause the thyroid gland to not make enough thyroid hormones that the body needs (hypothyroidism).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fatigue • Weight gain • A puffy face • Being cold all of the time • Constipation • Dry skin • Thinning, dry hair • Decreased sweating • Depression
<p>Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy Syndrome (PRES)</p>	<p>A neurologic condition called PRES can happen during treatment with ramucirumab.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe headache • Confusion • Weakness • Seizures • Blindness or change in vision
<p>Extravasation</p>	<p>Extravasation happens when medicine that is supposed to go into a vein leaks out into the tissues around it. This can cause pain, swelling, and damage to the skin and tissues. Paclitaxel may cause extravasation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pain, burning, or stinging at the infusion site • Swelling, redness, or blistering around the site • Coolness or numbness in the area • Decreased blood flow or tissue damage, potentially leading to ulcers or tissue death in severe cases

**Before starting treatment, ask your care team when to call 9-1-1 or seek emergency help.
If you experience any new, worsening, or uncontrolled side effects, contact your care team immediately.**

Intimacy, Fertility, Pregnancy, and Breastfeeding

- Treatment may **change how you feel about intimacy and your body**. However, physical closeness—such as holding hands and hugging—remains safe. It is common to have questions about intimacy. If needed, talk to your care team for guidance.
- Treatment can affect your **ability to have children**. It may damage your reproductive organs or stop them from working. If you are worried about fertility, talk to your care team before starting treatment.
- Treatment may **harm an unborn baby**.
 - If you are able to become pregnant:
 - Take a pregnancy test before starting treatment.
 - Use an effective method of birth control during treatment with ramucirumab and paclitaxel and for 3 months after your last dose of ramucirumab.
 - If you think you might be pregnant or if you become pregnant, tell your care team right away.
 - If your partner is able to become pregnant, use an effective method of birth control—such as condoms—during treatment with ramucirumab and paclitaxel.
- **Do NOT breastfeed** during treatment, for 6 to 10 days after your last does of paclitaxel, and for 2 months after your last dose of ramucirumab.

Handling Body Fluids and Waste

Some drugs you receive may stay in your urine, stool, sweat, or vomit for many days after treatment. Because many cancer drugs are toxic, your body waste may also be dangerous to touch. To help protect yourself, your loved ones, and the environment, **follow these instructions** for at least **4 days** after each dose of **paclitaxel**: (Note: Ramucirumab does not require special handling of body fluids and waste.)

- People who are pregnant should avoid touching anything that may be soiled with body fluids from the patient.
- You can use your usual toilet. Always close the lid and flush to discard all waste. If you have a low-flow toilet, flush twice.
- If the toilet or seat is soiled with urine, stool, or vomit, clean the surface after each use before others use it.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after using the toilet.
- If you need a bedpan, inform your caregiver so they can wear gloves and assist with cleanup. Wash the bedpan with soap and water daily.
- If you cannot control your bladder or bowels, use a disposable pad with a plastic back, a diaper, or a sheet to absorb waste.
- Wash any skin exposed to body waste with soap and water.
- Wash soiled linens or clothing separately from other laundry. If you don't have a washer, place them in a plastic bag until they can be washed.
- Wash your hands with soap and water after touching soiled linens or clothing.

Additional Information

- **Tell your care team about all the medicines you take.**
This includes prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, and herbal products. Before starting any new medicine, supplement, or vaccine, ask your care team first.
- **Wound healing problems.** Wounds may not heal properly during ramucirumab treatment. Tell your care team if you plan to have any surgery before starting or during treatment with ramucirumab.
 - You should not receive ramucirumab for at least 28 days before planned surgery.
 - Your care team should tell you when you may start receiving ramucirumab again after surgery.
- **This Patient Education Sheet may not describe all possible side effects.**
Call your care team for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

Notes

Updated Date: July 9, 2026

Scan the QR code below to access this education sheet.



Important notice: The Association of Cancer Care Centers (ACCC), Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA), Network for Collaborative Oncology Development & Advancement, Inc. (NCODA), and Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) have collaborated in gathering information for and developing this patient education guide. This guide represents a brief summary of the medication derived from information provided by the drug manufacturer and other resources.

This guide does not cover all existing information related to the possible uses, directions, doses, precautions, warnings, interactions, adverse effects, or risks associated with this medication and should not substitute for the advice of a qualified healthcare professional. Provision of this guide is for informational purposes only and does not constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation, or favoring of this medication by ACCC, HOPA, NCODA, or ONS, who assume no liability for and cannot ensure the accuracy of the information presented. All decisions related to taking this medication should be made with the guidance and under the direction of a qualified healthcare professional.

Permission: Patient Education Sheets are provided as a free educational resource for patients with cancer and their caregivers in need of concise, easy to understand information about cancer therapy. Healthcare providers are permitted to copy and distribute the sheets to patients as well as direct patients to the Patient Education Sheets website. However, commercial reproduction or reuse, as well as rebranding or reposting of any type, are strictly prohibited without permission of the copyright holders. Permission requests, including direct linking from Electronic Health Records, and licensing inquiries should be emailed to patienteducationsheets@ncoda.org.

Copyright © 2026 by Network for Collaborative Oncology Development & Advancement, Inc. All rights reserved.

PES-202