Trastuzumab Emtansine

Care Team Contact Information: _____

Pharmacy Contact Information: _____

Diagnosis: _____

- This treatment is used for breast cancer.
- It may also be used for other reasons.
- Your care team will perform a test for a specific type of abnormal human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) gene to make sure trastuzumab emtansine is right for you.

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
Trastuzumab Emtansine (tras-TOO-zoo-mab em-TAN-seen): Kadcyla (kad-SY-luh)	Finds and attaches directly to a specific protein on cancer cells. Once attached, the medicine goes inside the cancer cell and releases a chemotherapy drug to destroy it.	Infusion into a vein (intravenous (IV) infusion).

Treatment Administration and Schedule

Treatment is typically repeated every 3 weeks. This length of time is called a “cycle.”

	Cycle 1								Next Cycle
Treatment Name	**Day 1**	**Day 2**	**Day 3**	**Day 4**	**Day 5**	**Day 6**	**…**	**Day 21**	**Day 1**
Trastuzumab Emtansine	✓								✓

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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 an appointment, call your care team as soon as possible to reschedule it.

Supportive Care to Prevent and Treat Side Effects

Description	Supportive Care Given at the Clinic or Hospital	Supportive Care Taken at Home
Supportive care used to treat or prevent side effects		

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Common Side Effects

Side Effect	Important Information
Liver Problems (Boxed Warning)	Description: Treatment can cause liver injury. Your care team may check your liver with blood tests before and during treatment. Talk to your care team if you have: • 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
Low White Blood Cell (WBC) Count (Neutropenia) and Increased Risk of Infection	Description: WBCs help protect your body from infections. A low WBC count increases your risk of infection. Recommendations: • 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. Talk to your care team if you have: • 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 Platelet Count (Thrombocytopenia)	Description: Platelets help your blood clot and wounds heal. A low platelet count increases your risk of bruising and bleeding. Recommendations: • Blow your nose gently and avoid picking it. • Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush and keep good oral hygiene. • Use an electric razor for shaving and a nail file instead of nail clippers. • Avoid over-the-counter medicines that can increase bleeding risk (for example, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like ibuprofen). • Talk with your care team or dentist before medical or dental procedures — you may need to pause treatment. Talk to your care team if you have: • A nosebleed lasting more than 5 minutes despite pressure • A cut that continues to bleed • Heavy gum bleeding when brushing or flossing • Sudden or severe headache • Blood in your urine or stool • Blood in your spit after coughing

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Low Red Blood Cell (RBC) Count and Hemoglobin (Hgb) (Anemia)	Description: Red blood cells carry oxygen throughout your body. Low levels can make you feel tired, weak, dizzy, or short of breath. Recommendations: • 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. Talk to your care team if you have: • Shortness of breath • Dizziness or fainting • Fast or irregular heartbeats • Sudden or severe headache
Fatigue	Description: Fatigue is a constant and sometimes strong feeling of tiredness. Recommendations: • 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. Talk to your care team if you have: • 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
Nausea and Vomiting	Description: Nausea is an uncomfortable feeling in your stomach or the need to throw up. You may or may not vomit. Recommendations: • 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. Talk to your care team if you have: • Vomiting for more than 24 hours • Nonstop vomiting • Signs of dehydration (very thirsty, dry mouth, dizziness, or dark urine) • Blood in your vomit or vomit that looks like coffee grounds • Severe stomach pain that does not go away after vomiting

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<table>
<tr><td>Muscle, Bone, or Joint Pain</td><td>Description: Muscle pain is soreness, aching, cramps, stiffness, tenderness, or weakness in one or more muscles. Joint pain is pain, stiffness, swelling, or reduced movement where two bones meet. Bone pain is a deep, aching or sharp pain in or around a bone that may worsen with movement or pressure.

Recommendations:
Keep a pain diary: note pain levels, locations, and activities that make it better or worse.
Do gentle exercise (walking, stretching, yoga) to maintain mobility and strength. Check with your care team before starting a new activity.
Use a warm compress for stiff muscles or a cold pack to reduce swelling and numb pain—use what helps the area.
Your care team may recommend or prescribe medicines, including over-the-counter pain relievers.
Talk to your care team if you have:
Pain you cannot control with usual measures
Swelling, redness, or warmth in a joint
New weakness
Trouble walking or moving</td></tr>
<tr><td>Low Potassium Levels in Your Blood (Hypokalemia)</td><td>Description: Treatment may cause low levels of potassium in your blood. Your care team will perform blood tests to check for these changes and will treat you if needed.

Talk to your care team if you have:
New or worsening muscle weakness or cramps
Irregular, fast, or pounding heartbeat, or chest pain
Severe dizziness, fainting, or lightheadedness
Severe constipation or stomach-area (abdominal) pain</td></tr>
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Select Rare Side Effects

Side Effect	Talk to Your Care Team if You Have Any of These Signs or Symptoms
Heart Problems (Boxed Warning)	• Swelling of your stomach area (abdomen), legs, hands, feet, or ankles • Shortness of breath • Nausea or vomiting • New or worsening chest discomfort, including pain or pressure • Weight gain • Pain or discomfort in your arms, back, neck, or jaw • Protruding neck veins • Breaking out in a cold sweat • Feeling lightheaded or dizzy
Severe Bleeding (Hemorrhage)	• 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
Lung Problems	• Cough • Shortness of breath • Chest pain or tightness
Numbness, Tingling, or Burning in Your Hands or Feet (Peripheral Neuropathy)	• 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
Infusion-Related Reactions	Your care team may slow or temporarily stop the infusion if you have a reaction. Treatment may be permanently stopped for a severe reaction. • 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
Extravasation	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. Trastuzumab emtansine may cause extravasation. • 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

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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.
- **Boxed Warning**: Treatment may **harm an unborn baby**.
    - If you are able to become pregnant:
        - Your care team will verify your pregnancy status before treatment.
        - Use an effective method of birth control during treatment and for 7 months after your last dose of trastuzumab emtansine.
        - 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 and for 4 months after your last dose of trastuzumab emtansine.
- **Do not breastfeed** during treatment and for 7 months after your last dose of trastuzumab emtansine.

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 **3 weeks** after each dose of **trastuzumab emtansine**:

- 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.

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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.
- **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: November 2, 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 to gather information and develop this patient education guide. This guide is a summary of the medication, based on information provided by the drug manufacturer and other sources.

This guide does not cover all information available on the possible uses, directions, doses, precautions, warnings, interactions, adverse effects, or risks associated with this medication. It should not be used as a substitute for the advice of a qualified healthcare professional. The provision of this guide is for informational purposes only. It 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 regarding this medication should be made with the guidance and direction of a qualified healthcare professional.

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