Bevacizumab

- **Bevacizumab** (be-va-SIZ-yoo-mab) is a drug that is used to treat some types of cancers. It is a monoclonal antibody: a type of protein designed to target and interferes with the growth of cancer cells. It is a clear liquid that is injected into a vein.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to bevacizumab, or any other monoclonal antibody, before taking bevacizumab.
- A **blood test, urine test, and blood pressure measurement** may be taken before each treatment. The dose and timing of your chemotherapy may be changed based on the test results and/or other side effects.
- Some drugs, herbal products and supplements may **interact** with your treatment. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any of these or before you start taking any new drugs.
- Bevacizumab may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with bevacizumab, and for six months after your last treatment. Tell your doctor right away if you become pregnant. Do not breast feed during treatment.
- **Tell** doctors, dentists or other health care providers that you are being treated with this medication before you receive any other treatment from them.
- If you are planning to have **surgery**, you should stop bevacizumab 4 weeks before surgery and not restart bevacizumab until 4 weeks after surgery and only if the surgical wound is fully healed. This helps to lower the risk of bleeding and may prevent problems with wound healing after surgery.

Side effects that may occur and tips for management

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Pain or tenderness may occur where the needle was placed.	Apply cool compresses or soak in cool water for 15-20 minutes several times a day.
Nausea and vomiting may occur after your treatment. Most people have little or no nausea.	You may be given a prescription for anti-nausea drug(s) to take before your chemotherapy treatment and/or at home. It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred, so follow directions closely. • Drink plenty of liquids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts.
Constipation may sometimes occur.	To help constipation: • Exercise if you can. • Drink plenty of fluids (8 cups a day).
Diarrhea may sometimes occur.	• Drink plenty of fluids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts. • Avoid high fibre foods.
Headache may occur.	• Take Paracetamol (Panadol ®) if needed • Tell your doctor if the headache persists or if it is associated with vomiting, confusion or visual changes.
Muscle or joint pain may sometimes occur.	• You may take Paracetamol (Panadol ®) • Tell your doctor if the pain interferes with your activity.
Loss of appetite and weight loss sometimes occur.	
Tiredness and lack of energy may occur.	• Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you are feeling tired.
Minor bleeding, such as **nosebleeds**, may occur.	• Sit up straight and tip your head slightly forward. Tilting your head back may cause blood to run down your throat. • Pinch your nostrils shut between your thumb and forefinger or apply firm pressure against the bleeding nostril for 10 full minutes. • After 10 minutes, check to see if your nose is still bleeding. If it is, hold it for another 10 minutes. • Sit quietly for a few hours and do not blow your nose for at least 12 hours after the bleeding has stopped. • Get emergency help if a nosebleed lasts longer than 20 minutes.
Hair loss is rare with bevacizumab. If you lose hair, it will grow back once you stop treatment with bevacizumab. Color and texture may change.	• Use a gentle shampoo and soft brush. • Apply mineral oil to your scalp to reduce itching.

Patient education leaflet
(Adapted from BC Cancer Drug Manual - Canada (Developed: April 2006, Revised: 1 November 2010, 1 July 2011
Prepared by Clinical Pharmacy Department at the National Center for Cancer Care and Research - Version 1 on May 2017

SEE YOUR DOCTOR OR GET EMERGENCY HELP IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE:

- Signs of an **allergic reaction** (rare) soon after a treatment including breathing problems, flushing or redness, rash, dizziness, shivering, or chest pain.
- Signs of an **infection** such as fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer); chills; cough; pain or burning when you pass urine.
- Signs of a **stroke** such as sudden onset of: severe headache, eyesight changes, slurred speech, loss of coordination, weakness or numbness in arm or leg.
- Signs of a **blood clot** such as tenderness or hardness over a vein, calf swelling and tenderness, sudden onset of cough, chest pain, or shortness of breath.
- Signs of **heart or lung problems** such as fast or uneven heartbeat, chest pain, chest pressure, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, swelling of ankles or fainting.
- Signs of **bleeding problems** such as black, tarry stools; blood in urine; pinpoint red spots on skin, extensive bruising.
- Persistent bleeding, such as **nosebleeds** lasting more than 20 minutes.
- Sudden **abdominal pain** or tenderness.
- Severe **headache** that does not go away, or occurs with vomiting, confusion or changes in eyesight.
- **Seizures**.

SEE YOUR DOCTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (DURING OFFICE HOURS) IF YOU HAVE:

- Signs of **anemia** such as unusual tiredness or weakness.
- Signs of **kidney problems** such as swelling of feet or lower legs.
- **Sores** that do not heal or are slow to heal.
- **Changes in eyesight.**

CHECK WITH YOUR DOCTOR IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONTINUE OR BOTHER YOU:

- Uncontrolled nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or abdominal pain.
- Changes in mood or memory, or trouble sleeping. Bleeding gums, easy bruising, or minor bleeding.
- Easy bruising or minor bleeding. Redness, swelling, pain, or sores on your lips, tongue, mouth, or throat.
- Redness, swelling, pain or sores on your lips, tongue, mouth or throat. Dizziness.
- Runny or stuffy nose (without other cold symptoms) that does not go away, or occurs with bleeding or crusting of the nose.
- Skin rash or itching.

REPORT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS TO YOUR DOCTOR

This is a summary of useful information to help you understand and take your medicine safely .

We are available to answer your questions For urgent inquiries contact :

- **Urgent care unit at the National Center of Cancer Care and Research (NCCCR) TEL : 44397179 (available 24 hours, all week days).**

For further information or question contact :

- **Your doctor** (from 7 am – 3 pm) .
- **Clinical Pharmacy section,** TEL: 44397239 (Sun-Thurs from 7 am – 3 pm) .
- **Outpatient Pharmacy**, TEL: 44397531, 44397825 (Sun-Thurs from 7 am – 3 pm) .

Pharmacy Department

18-0102