

Rituximab

Information for patients, relatives and carers

① For more information, please contact: Medical Elective Services (MES)
The York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE,
telephone 01904 721062 or email MESpatientenquiries@york.nhs.uk

Information about Rituximab

Rituximab is a drug used to treat Rheumatoid Arthritis that has not improved with other types of medications. It works by turning off a part of the immune system that is not working properly in autoimmune diseases.

Usually two infusions of Rituximab are given two weeks apart.

Information about your infusion

Prior to attending the Medical Elective Services (MES) you are required to have a blood sample taken and a form should be enclosed for this purpose.

Your Rituximab will be given by the nurses on MES.

On admission you will be asked to produce a urine sample, to be tested on the ward. If this is clear we will then commence your treatment.

A cannula will be inserted into a vein in your arm. Through this you will be given Intravenous (IV) steroids over half an hour.

You will also be given Paracetamol and Piriton tablets as a precaution against any side effects.

Your Rituximab infusion will commence thirty minutes after the completion of the steroid infusion.

At half hourly intervals your blood pressure will be taken and your infusion rate may be increased accordingly. Once the infusion is complete you will receive a saline flush and then monitored for one hour. Your cannula will then be removed and you will be discharged home.

Possible side effects may include flu-like symptoms, a fall in blood pressure, headache, throat tightness or difficulty breathing.

If you experience any of these symptoms please inform a member of staff as it may be necessary to slow down your infusion. Very rarely reactions are severe enough to stop the treatment.

If you have any problems following the Rituximab infusion please contact the Rheumatology Specialist Nurse Helpline.

Tell us what you think of this leaflet

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact MES, The York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE, telephone 01904 721062 or email MESpatientenquiries@york.nhs.uk.

Teaching, training and research

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of health and healthcare in our community. Healthcare students may observe consultations for this purpose. You can opt out if you do not want students to observe. We may also ask you if you would like to be involved in our research.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS offers impartial advice and assistance to patients, their relatives, friends and carers. We can listen to feedback (positive or negative), answer questions and help resolve any concerns about Trust services. PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or email pals@york.nhs.uk. An answer phone is available out of hours.

Leaflets in alternative languages or formats

Please telephone or email if you require this information in a different language or format, for example Braille, large print or audio.

如果你要求本資 不同的 或 式提供 , 電或發電

Jeżeli niniejsze informacje potrzebne są w innym języku lub formacie, należy zadzwonić lub wysłać wiadomość e-mail

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