

Ziv-Aflibercept

Names	The generic drug name is ziv-aflibercept (ziv-a-FLIB-er-sept). The brand name is Zaltrap™. There may be other names for this medication.
How is Ziv-Aflibercept Administered?	This medication is administered by IV, meaning it is infused into the blood through a vein in your arm, chest, or hand. Usually, the infusion takes 1 hour, and is repeated every 2 weeks.
Why Am I taking Ziv-Aflibercept?	Ziv-aflibercept is given along with other chemotherapy drugs to treat colon or rectal cancer, usually after other treatments have not worked. It is often given with FOLFIRI. FOLFIRI is a chemotherapy regimen made up of 5-fluorouracil (5FU), leucovorin, and irinotecan. Drug combinations are given because different drugs kill cancer cells in different ways.
How Does it Work?	<p>Cancer is a group of diseases in which abnormal cells divide without control. Traditional chemo medications identify cancer cells by their rapid rate of reproduction – and then attack those cells. Ziv-aflibercept works differently.</p> <p>Ziv-aflibercept is a type of targeted therapy. Specifically, it is a recombinant fusion protein or a VEGF (vascular endothelial growth factor) trap.</p> <p>We have molecules in our bloodstream called VEGFs (vascular endothelial growth factors). Our bodies use VEGFs to help build the new blood vessels we need. However, cancer cells can hijack this process and use the VEGFs to build new blood vessels to the tumor, so it can grow. Ziv-aflibercept binds (traps) the VEGFs, which decreases the blood supply to the tumor. With less blood supply, the tumor becomes slow growing or stops growing altogether.</p>
What Should I tell My Doctor Before I begin Receiving Ziv-Aflibercept?	<p>Tell your doctor if you :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have ever had an allergic reaction to ziv-aflibercept• have liver, heart, or bleeding problems; high blood pressure; any

type of infection; or a wound that has not healed

- have had surgery or dental work within the last month or if you plan to have any surgery
- are pregnant, breastfeeding, or plan to do either

This drug may interact with other medications, increasing or decreasing their effectiveness or causing harmful side effects. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about any prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal or diet supplements that you are taking.

What Are Some Possible Side Effects?

- Low levels of white blood cells, red blood cells, and platelets, which can increase your risk for infection, fatigue, and bleeding
- Fatigue (not related to anemia)
- Diarrhea, dehydration
- Mouth and throat sores/ soreness, dry mouth
- High blood pressure (hypertension)
- Decreased appetite, weight loss
- Slow wound healing

Less common side effects

- Abdominal pain
- Trouble with speech (speaking slowly or having difficulty speaking), voice changes
- Headache
- Skin problems: darkening of the skin; Hand-foot syndrome (pain, swelling, redness, cracking/peeling of skin on palms of the hands and soles of the feet)
- Eye problems: redness, pain

Rare, but serious side effects

- Uncontrolled bleeding (hemorrhage)
- Holes in the digestive tract (perforations)
- Very delayed wound healing, partially healed wounds reopening, or fistulas (formation of an abnormal passageway in lower abdomen or pelvis)
- Blood clots

How Can I Manage These Side Effects?

- Drink 2-3 quarts of fluid per day, preferably water, unless your doctor tells you otherwise. Moderate/severe diarrhea can put you at risk for dehydration. If not treated, serious problems can occur.
- **Low white blood cell count/Risk of infection:** To help avoid infections, stay away from crowds in confined spaces and people with colds or other infections. Wash your hands often. Talk to your doctor before you have any vaccinations, such as a flu shot.
- **Low red blood cell count/Anemia and fatigue:** Take rest during the day, limit your activities, and do an activity at a time of day when you feel a bit more energetic. Learn to ask for or accept help with household and daily chores.
- **Low platelet count/Risk of bleeding:** Be careful when handling sharp objects. Stay away from situations where you can be bruised, cut, or injured. Use an electric razor.
- **Diarrhea:** Loperamide (Imodium®) is available over the counter. Your doctor will tell you if and how to take it. Do not take more than 8 tablets (16mg) in a 24-hour period. Call the clinic if this does not provide relief within 24 hours. Ask your doctor about medication to help prevent or lessen diarrhea.
- **Mouth care** is very important. To prevent mouth sores, rinse your mouth with a mixture of ½ teaspoon of baking soda in 8 ounces of water after every meal and at bedtime. Brush your teeth and gums often with a soft toothbrush. Do not use tobacco products, alcohol, or mouthwashes that contain alcohol (Listerine®, Scope®, etc.). Make sure the label on the front of the bottle says, 'Alcohol free.' Call us if symptoms become so severe that you have difficulty swallowing. Additional medications can be prescribed.
- **Skin care:** You may be more sensitive to sunlight. Use sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher that protects against both UVA and UVB rays when you are outdoors, even if it is just for a short time. Wear sunglasses, wide-brimmed hats, long-sleeved shirts, and pants. Keep your neck, chest, and back covered. If you develop a rash, do not put anything on it until your doctor approves it.

Hand foot syndrome: To help prevent hand-foot syndrome: frequently apply moisturizer to the palms of your hands and the soles of your feet,

and reduce friction and heat exposure to these areas. If you have hand foot syndrome,

DO...

- Wear thick, soft cotton socks with all your shoes, add foam-type absorbing soles and shock absorbers to relieve pressure points in your shoes.
- Wear thick cotton gloves when doing activities in or out of the house, such as cleaning the house, gardening, or going food shopping.
- Keep your hands/feet well moisturized. AT least once a day, soak them in cool water for 20-30 minutes, pat dry, and apply a fragrance-free moisturizer such as Eucerin.
- Use fragrance-free lotion or cream that contains petroleum, such as urea, Kerasal One Step Exfoliating Foot Moisturizer Therapy, or Udderly Smooth®

DO NOT...

- *break open any blisters if they develop. Apply a petroleum-based ointment, such as Vaseline, and cover it with a bandage (Band-Aid)*
- *soak your hands and feet in hot water or in a hot tub (No hot baths!)*
- *wear tight socks, pantyhose, or shoes*
- *rub your palms or soles, with the except putting on lotion or cream*

When Should I Call the Doctor?

Call 911 or go to nearest ER if you have swelling or tingling in your face, mouth, or throat, trouble breathing, chest pain, or skin looks gray or blue.

Call you doctor immediately if you have:

- signs of allergic reaction: Itching; hives; rash
- signs of infection: **Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher**, chills, cough, sore throat, pain or burning upon urination; redness or tenderness at any wound or skin irritation site
- unusual bruising or bleeding: Bleeding lasts more than 10-15 minutes or that causes dizziness; black or bloody stools; vomit that is bloody or that looks like coffee grounds; blood in your urine or phlegm/mucus, unusually heavy menstrual bleeding, spontaneous bleeding from your gums or nose, or superficial bleeding into the skin that appears as a rash of pinpoint-sized reddish-purple spots (petechiae)

- severe abdominal (belly) pain with or without chills, constipation, nausea, vomiting, or fever
- redness, swelling, and/or dull throbbing pain in your calf, or a warm sensation in your leg
- headache towards the back of your head, blurred vision, or a change in the way you walk

Call your doctor as soon as possible if you have:

- more than 5 episodes of diarrhea in 24 hours
- extreme fatigue that keeps you from caring for yourself
- a wound that is not healing
- frothy urine with swelling in the abdomen, face, feet, and/or hands

What Else Should I Know About Ziv-aflibercept?

- Keep all appointments with your doctor and the laboratory.
- Ziv-aflibercept is not recommended during pregnancy unless the benefits outweigh the risk of harm to the fetus. You should not get pregnant or father a child while receiving this medication. **Both men and women should use adequate birth control methods while on this medication and for at least 3 months after the last dose.** A barrier method such as condoms or a diaphragm is recommended.
- Do not breastfeed while on this medication.
- Make sure to tell all your doctors you are receiving this medication. This is especially important if any of your doctors are discussing surgery. Tell your dentist before any dental work is performed. Most likely, you will have to discontinue this medication before any surgical procedure can be performed.
- For more information on Ziv-aflibercept, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.