Patient Education

Brentuximab Vedotin (bren TUX i mab ve Doe tin)

Other Names

Adcetris®

How is Brentuximab Administered?

Brentuximab is given by infusion into a vein (intravenous or IV). It is usually infused over 30 minutes, every 3 weeks.

Why am I Using Brentuximab?

Brentuximab is used to treat Hodgkin’s lymphoma in people who did not have a good response to either a stem cell transplant or 2 different chemotherapy regimens of multiple chemotherapy agents. It is also used to treat systemic anaplastic large cell lymphoma in people who did not respond to at least 1 multiple agent chemotherapy.

How Does it Work?

Brentuximab combines a type of targeted therapy with a chemotherapy agent. The targeted therapy part of the drug is a monoclonal antibody. Cancer is a group of diseases in which abnormal cells multiply without control. Traditional chemotherapy agents identify cancer cells by their rapid rate of multiplication– and then attack those cells. Targeted therapy identifies other differences between normal cells and cancer cells, and then uses that difference to attack the cancer cells.

Brentuximab works like your body’s natural antibodies – by recognizing and attaching to a specific antigen (called CD30) on the surface of cancer cells. When it attaches itself to the antigen, it lets the chemotherapy agent into the cell. The chemotherapy agent disturbs the structures inside the cell, and it is not able to reproduce. If it cannot reproduce, the cell will die.

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