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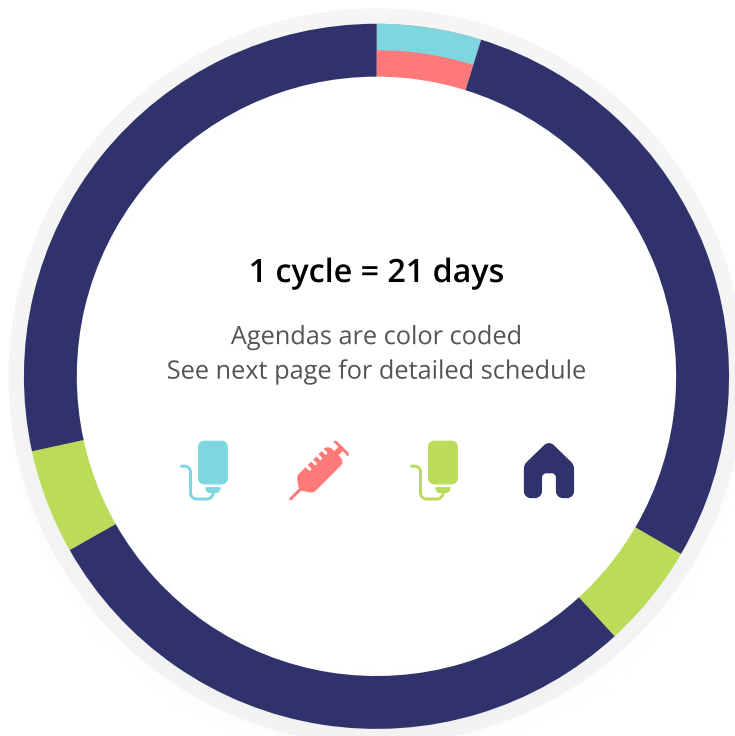
Paclitaxel (weekly), IV Pertuzumab and SC Trastuzumab

About the treatment

A combination of paclitaxel (microtubule inhibitor), pertuzumab (monoclonal antibody), and trastuzumab (monoclonal antibody) is an effective treatment option for breast cancer. When cancer drugs are combined, they become more efficient at stopping cancer cell growth and spreading.

Treatment details

- **Paclitaxel and Pertuzumab** will be administered intravenously ~ 1.5 to 2 hours **on day 1 of your 21-day cycle.**
- **Trastuzumab** will be administered subcutaneously ~2 to 5 minutes **on day 1 of your 21-day cycle.**
- **Paclitaxel** will be administered intravenously ~ 60 minutes **on days 8 and 15 of your 21-day cycle.**
- **From days 2 to 7, days 9 to 14 and days 16 to 21,** you won't have any anti-cancer treatment. Take this time to rest and recover. (**Except on days 8 and 15** when you will have a paclitaxel dose).





Paclitaxel, Pertuzumab

Intravenously, over ~ 1.5 - 2 hours, at the cancer centre



Trastuzumab

Subcutaneously, over ~ 2 - 5 minutes, at the cancer centre



Paclitaxel

Intravenously, over ~ 60 minutes, at the cancer centre



Rest

No treatment

Day 1 	Day 2 	Day 3 	Day 4 	Day 5 	Day 6 	Day 7
Day 8 	Day 9 	Day 10 	Day 11 	Day 12 	Day 13 	Day 14
Day 15 	Day 16 	Day 17 	Day 18 	Day 19 	Day 20 	Day 21

Side Effects

Chemotherapy is often linked to so many side effects. While it is true that chemotherapy drugs often cause a wide range of side effects, most of these side effects are temporary and can be minimised or prevented. Remember that different drugs cause different side effects, and each person experiences different side effects to varying degrees.

Common Side Effects

The following side effects occur in more than 10 out of every 100 people.

You might have one or more of them.

Low platelet count (thrombocytopenia)

Platelets help your blood clot, so you are at a higher risk of bleeding when your platelet count decreases. Let your oncology care team know if you have any excess bruising or bleeding, including nose bleeds, sore gums or blood in your urine or stool.

Low red blood cell count (anaemia)

Red blood cells (RBC) are responsible for carrying oxygen to the tissues in your body. When you have a low RBC count, you may feel tired or weak and have pale skin.

Low white blood cell count (Leukopenia or Neutropenia)

White blood cells (WBC) are crucial for fighting infection. While receiving treatment, your WBC count can drop, putting you at a higher risk of disease.

Allergic reactions

You may have an allergic reaction to this medication. Symptoms usually include rash, itching, dizziness, vomiting, shortness of breath, chest pain, sudden blood pressure changes or oedema (swelling).

Nausea and/or vomiting

Every patient reacts differently to cancer medication. Many people feel nauseous, and some also experience vomiting. Nausea and vomiting can be managed or reduced with medication.

Peripheral neuropathy/neurotoxicity

Peripheral neuropathy is due to damage to the nerves outside the brain and spinal cord. These nerves carry information from the brain to other parts of the body. The usual symptoms are numbness, tingling, and weakness in the extremities like hands and feet.

Fatigue

You may feel tired and find it harder to do daily chores/activities that you usually do or want to do. It may be physical, emotional and mental exhaustion.

Patient Information Use and Disclaimer: this is not a complete list of side effects. Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

Mouth sores

Cancer medications can cause sores in the mouth and throat. These sores are painful and may become infected.

Flu-like symptoms

Some types of chemotherapy can cause flu-like symptoms within a few hours of treatment. These symptoms generally last for 2 to 3 days. Some types of immunotherapy increase your body's natural immune response, which can cause mild to severe flu-like symptoms.

Joint pain

Pain is a common side effect of chemotherapy, and joint pain is no exception. Although it can occur anytime during treatment, it often appears afterwards and is usually resolved in weeks to months.

Other Common Side Effects

- Skin problems (rash, itch), nail problems
- Lungs/breathing problems (cough, shortness of breath)
- Dry skin

Occasional Side Effects

**The following side effects occur in between 1 to 10 out of every 100 people (1 - 10%)
You might have one or more of them.**

- Cardiac problems (Chest pain or tightness, irregular heartbeat or blood pressure changes, shortness of breath, sudden weight gain due to oedema)
- Mood changes
- Muscle stiffness and difficult movement
- Hot flushes & sweating
- Dry mouth
- Piles
- Breast swelling and pain
- Kidney dysfunction (Monitored by specific blood tests)
- Liver dysfunction (Monitored by specific blood tests)

Rare Side Effects

The following side effects occur in fewer than 1 out of every 100 people.

- Seizure or convulsion
- Cognitive or memory problems
- Heart failure
- Blood clots
- Sepsis
- Respiratory failure

Food & Drink



Tell your healthcare team about any medicines you are taking. This includes vitamins, herbal supplements, traditional Chinese medicine and over-the-counter remedies. During treatment, please do not drink the juice of the following fruits, including supplements that may contain them: grapefruit, starfruit, pomegranate and pomelo. They may interfere with the effects of drugs or cause dangerous side effects.

As some treatments may weaken your immune system, avoiding raw or undercooked food such as sushi, raw meat, and runny eggs is advisable to prevent infection. Bacteria are often present in uncooked food and are usually killed by the cooking process. If your doctor determines it is safe to eat raw vegetables and fruits, they should be carefully washed. We have dietitian services that can help you plan your diet and meals. Please let a member of your healthcare team know if you are interested.

Pregnancy, Contraception and Breastfeeding



This drug may harm a baby developing in the womb. It is critical not to become pregnant while having treatment and for at least six months afterwards. Before starting treatment, talk to your healthcare team about effective contraception (for both male and female partners). Do not breastfeed during this treatment because the drug may pass through your breast milk.

Fertility



It is not known whether this treatment affects fertility in people. We have fertility services that can assist with family planning. Talk to your healthcare team before starting treatment if you intend to have a baby in the future.

Immunisations



You may have immunisations and vaccinations to protect your health. Please check with your healthcare team on which immunisations and vaccinations you can take, as this may vary depending on the type of cancer and treatment you are having.

Alcohol



It is generally advisable to avoid alcohol while undergoing cancer treatment.

Exercise



Keep an active routine. Regular exercise, such as walking 30 minutes weekly, would be helpful.

How to contact your Healthcare Team

Cancer Line (+65) 9722 0569



8:30 am - 5:30 pm (Mondays - Fridays)
Closed on Weekends & Public Holidays

For non-operating hours, weekends, and public holidays, please go to your nearest **Emergency Department**.

Contact your healthcare team as soon as possible if:



- You have severe side effects.
- Your side effects aren't getting any better.
- Your side effects are getting worse.

Seek medical attention if you develop the following:



- Soon after treatment, signs of an allergic reaction include rashes, face swelling, dizziness, chest tightness, a fast heartbeat, or breathing difficulties.
- Symptoms of an infection include fever (temperature over 38°C), chills, severe sore throat, wet cough (coughing up thick or green phlegm), and cloudy or foul-smelling urine.
- Signs of unusual bleeding, bruising, or dark and sticky stools.
- Feeling unwell (despite not having a fever).

Chemotherapy resources:

