

Lemtrada Infusion Education and Preparation

The day before your infusion, drink up to 2 liters of water to ensure that you are well hydrated.

What tests will I receive before Lemtrada?

- Baseline lab work
- Dermatology exam (to be done yearly) to screen for any skin cancers
- Human papillomavirus infection (HPV) screening (for females) will be required before the infusion.
- Monthly and quarterly blood draws at a Quest diagnostics lab near you (cost will be covered by Genzyme, the makers of Lemtrada).

What are the risks of Lemtrada?

While receiving Lemtrada you are at risk for the following autoimmune conditions:

- Immune thrombocytopenia (ITP) - low platelets
- Other blood disorders (including neutropenia, hemolytic anemia, and pancytopenia)
- Certain types of kidney diseases
- Thyroid disorders

Autoimmune conditions are those in which your immune system attacks healthy cells.

Other risks

Lemtrada may also increase your chance of getting some kinds of cancers including thyroid cancer, skin cancer (melanoma), and blood cancers called lymphoproliferative disorders and lymphoma. There is also a risk of developing

infections caused by herpes simplex virus such as shingles after Lemtrada infusions.

- As a precaution you will receive a prescription for Acyclovir 200 mg to take twice daily. You will start it the day of the first infusion and continue to take it for 6 months.

Important information about autoimmune conditions:

All of these autoimmune conditions could occur long after you received a course of treatment with Lemtrada. The monthly and quarterly blood draws, urine tests and regular exams are very important even if you are feeling well.

You must continue to watch for signs and symptoms for 4 years after your last Lemtrada infusion.

What reactions might I experience at the time of the infusion?

Most patients treated with Lemtrada will experience infusion reactions at the time of the infusion or within 24 hours after the infusion.

Common infusion reactions include:

- Nausea
- Hives
- Itching
- Difficulty sleeping
- Chills
- Flushing
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Upset stomach
- Dizziness
- Pain

In order to try to reduce these effects, you will receive:

- 1 gram of IV Solumedrol before the Lemtrada infusion for the first 3 infusions. This is used to treat inflammation and allergies.

- IV Benadryl during the infusions and oral Zantac and Zyrtec beginning the day before the infusions and daily during the infusions. These are anti-histamines used to treat allergies.
- In addition, you will be observed during the infusion and at least 2 hours after the infusion has been completed (or longer if needed).

In case of serious reactions, it is possible that the infusion may be stopped.

When should I call for help?

Call if you if you have **any of the following delayed reactions** after you have left the healthcare facility:

- Swelling in your mouth or throat
- Trouble breathing
- Weakness
- Fast, slow, or irregular heart beat
- Chest pain
- Rash

What is the contact information?

- During business hours, Monday-Friday 8am-5pm, call the patient care line, (810) 263-4000.
- On weekends or afterhours call the neurologist on call (734) 936-6267

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