



# Daratumumab Rapid Rate Infusion

## What is Daratumumab?

Daratumumab is a drug used to treat multiple myeloma and belongs to a class of drugs known as monoclonal antibodies. It attaches specifically to a protein that is found on the surface of myeloma cells, enabling your immune system to target and kills these cells.

Infusion-related reactions can occur when daratumumab is being given. These include shortness of breath, blocked sinuses, coughing, raised blood pressure and chills and are particularly likely to occur during your first daratumumab infusion. These reactions are often mild, but they can be severe.

To prevent potentially serious infusion reactions, your first daratumumab infusion will be given slowly over at least 6 and a half hours. If this first infusion goes well, with no serious reaction, the manufacturer recommends the second infusion to be given over 4 hours, and the third (and any further) infusions over 3 and a half hours.

We will also give you paracetamol, an antihistamine and steroids before each infusion, to decrease the likelihood of infusion-related reactions.

## What is a rapid rate infusion?

A study has shown that the third and any additional daratumumab infusions can actually be safely given a faster rate, over 1 and a half



# Daratumumab Rapid Rate Infusion

hours instead of 3 and a half hours. This is called daratumumab rapid rate infusion.

During the study, there were no patients who experienced severe infusion-related reactions when having the rapid rate infusion. Only one patient experienced a mild reaction, but they then had no further reactions during their following rapid rate infusions.

The daratumumab rapid rate infusion is not described in the manufacturer product license; this means it is an unlicensed use of the medicine. We can give you a leaflet called 'Unlicensed and off-label medicines' which can help explain this

Having the rapid rate infusion will reduce the time you need to stay on the chemotherapy unit for your infusions.

## Who is eligible for daratumumab rapid rate infusion?

Daratumumab rapid rate infusion may be offered if you meet all the following criteria:

- You are receiving daratumumab as part of your treatment for multiple myeloma.
- You did not have any infusion-related reaction with your most recent daratumumab infusion.
- You have been assessed by the chemotherapy nurse as suitable for receiving rapid rate daratumumab infusion.
- You agree and consent to receive daratumumab via the rapid rate.



# Daratumumab Rapid Rate Infusion

If you do not meet the criteria for rapid rate infusion, or you do not wish to receive your infusion in this way, you will still be able to receive daratumumab as the standard rate of 3 and a half hours.

If you are eligible for daratumumab rapid rate infusion, you will be asked to complete a patient agreement form for the unlicensed rapid rate infusion.

## What are the risks of having rapid rate infusion?

All daratumumab infusions have a risk of infusion-related reactions, although the risk is lower if you have had no issues with your most recent infusion. If you notice any wheezing difficulty breathing, blocked nose, a cough, chills, throat irritation, nausea, vomiting or other unusual symptoms during your daratumumab infusion, or following completion of the infusion, you should let your chemotherapy nurse know straight away.

If you have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or other respiratory diseases, you may be at an increased risk of experiencing daratumumab reaction symptoms. This may be prevented by using your inhalers when you have the daratumumab infusion. If you have COPD, asthma or uncontrolled hypertension, please let your chemotherapy nurse know before you have the rapid rate infusion.



# Daratumumab Rapid Rate Infusion

## What to expect during a rapid rate infusion of daratumumab

When you arrive, your chemotherapy nurse will complete a chemotherapy assessment with you. They may also carry out certain checks, such as taking your temperature and measuring your blood pressure. They will put a needle, called a cannula, into your arm. This will be used to give you the infusion.

An hour before your daratumumab infusion, your chemotherapy nurse will give you medications to prevent infusion-related reactions.

Daratumumab is prepared in 500 ml sodium chloride 0.9%.

- The first one-fifth (100ml) will be given over 30 minutes
- The remaining infusion (400ml) will be given over 60 minutes (total infusion time 90 minutes).

Your chemotherapy nurse will check you are well during the infusion.

When the first rapid rate infusion is complete, you will be monitored by your chemotherapy nurse for 30 minutes.

If you do not have any infusion-related symptoms, your chemotherapy nurse will remove the cannula and you will be able to leave the chemotherapy unit.



# Daratumumab Rapid Rate Infusion

## Further Information

You can obtain further information from

- Your haematology doctors (Tel: 01793 605005)
- Specialist haematology nurse (Tel: 01793 604341)
- Specialist cancer pharmacists
- Chemotherapy nurses

They will be happy to answer any other questions you may have.

Leaflet adapted from  
Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

From 1st January 2019 smoking will not be permitted on any NHS site in England. Smoking will not be permitted within any of our buildings or anywhere outside on our sites. Smoking facilities will not be provided. Please be considerate of others when vaping in hospital grounds.

**This information sheet is available to order in other languages and formats. If you would like a copy, please contact us on 01793 604031 or email [gwh.pals@nhs.net](mailto:gwh.pals@nhs.net)**

### Document Control

Division: Diagnostic & Outpatients

Department: Pharmacy

Approved Date: 23 April 2020

Next Review Date: May 2023

Document Number: D&O - PIL0173