

Herzuma

(Say 'her-ZOO-ma')

Herzuma is a brand of trastuzumab (say 'tras-too-zoo-mab').

Trastuzumab treats some types of breast cancer, and cancers of the stomach and oesophagus (food pipe).

Trastuzumab is a biological medicine

Biological medicines are made from living sources like bacteria, yeast, or cells from animals and plants.

How is Herzuma given?



Herzuma is given as a drip into a vein (intravenous infusion). It's usually given once every three weeks, but may be given more often.



It's mainly given at an outpatient unit, by a nurse.



The first dose takes about 90 minutes. After that, each dose will usually take 30 minutes.

Monitoring during infusion

For some people, the infusion can cause a reaction.



Before the infusion you may be given medicines, such as paracetamol and an antihistamine.



You will be monitored during the infusion and afterwards. A reaction can sometimes be controlled by slowing the infusion.



Tell your nurse if you have any of these symptoms during your infusion:

- fever
- chills
- flushing
- skin rash, itching
- dizziness, headache
- trouble breathing



Note: If these symptoms happen after you've left the unit, contact your healthcare team or Healthline on **0800 611 116** immediately and tell them you are taking Herzuma.



Herzuma is a biosimilar medicine

It's a very close, but not identical, copy of the original brand of trastuzumab called **Herceptin**.



It isn't identical because biological medicines are made from living things, which are never exactly the same.



Biosimilar medicines are sensitive to temperature and pressure changes during manufacturing. This can lead to slight differences.

These changes don't affect how the medicine works.



Herzuma is a biosimilar to Herceptin. It's approved by Medsafe and funded by Pharmac.

Compared with Herceptin, Herzuma:

- ✓ Works equally well.
- ✓ Is made with the same types of living things.
- ✓ Has the same strength and dosage.
- ✓ Has similar side effects.
- ✓ Costs less.

Note: This factsheet is a summary only. For more information, visit www.healthify.nz/trastuzumab

All medicines have some side effects

Herzuma can cause side effects, although not everyone gets them.

Common side effects

These are usually mild. Tell your doctor if they bother you or don't go away:

- fever, chills, muscle and joint pain (flu like symptoms)
- runny poo (diarrhoea)
- headache
- shakes (tremor) or feeling dizzy.

Rare, serious side effects

Call **111** for an ambulance if you have signs of an allergic reaction, such as trouble breathing, skin rash, or swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or around your eyes.

Talk to your healthcare team or **Healthline on 0800 611 116** immediately if you notice signs of:

- infection such as a high temperature, or feeling shivery or unwell with a normal temperature
- heart problems such as swollen feet or ankles, chest tightness or abnormal heartbeat.

Tell them you are taking Herzuma.