



Royal Berkshire
NHS Foundation Trust

Daratumumab rapid rate infusion treatment

Information for patients

Daratumumab is a drug used to treat multiple myeloma. This leaflet explains what daratumumab rapid rate infusion entails, including benefits and risks.

What is daratumumab?

Daratumumab 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 kill these cells.

Treatment with daratumumab

To prevent potentially serious infusion reactions, your first daratumumab infusion will be given slowly – over at least 6½ hours. If this first infusion goes well with no serious reactions, the manufacturer recommends the second infusion to be given over 4 hours and the third (and any further) infusions over 3½ hours.

Certain reactions can occur when daratumumab is being given by infusion. These include shortness of breath, blocked sinuses, coughing, raised blood pressure and chills. They are most likely to occur during your first daratumumab infusion. These reactions may range from mild through to severe depending on individuals.

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

What is rapid rate infusion?

A study has shown that the third and any additional daratumumab infusions can actually be safely given at a faster rate than that recommended by the manufacturer – over 1½ hours instead of 3½ hours. This is known as daratumumab **rapid rate Infusion**.

During the study, no patients 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 any following rapid rate infusions.

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

The main benefit of having the rapid rate infusion is a reduction in 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 infusion.
- You agree and consent to receive daratumumab via the 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 at the standard rate – over 3½ hours.

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.

What happens during 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.

- The first one-fifth of the infusion will be given over 30 minutes.
- The remaining infusion will be given over 60 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 unit.

Further information and contacts:

Your haematology doctors, chemotherapy nurses and myeloma CNS will be happy to answer any other questions you might have.

Adelaide Ward:	0118 322 7470 or 0118 322 7471
Myeloma CNS:	0118 322 5111 bleep 094
West Ward:	0118 322 6632
Clinical Admin Team:	0118 322 8145 option 2

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