

This material will help you understand your medication, Rituxan, and its common side effects.

What is Rituxan? How does it work?

Rituxan is a cancer medication often used in the treatment of non-Hodgkin's lymphomas. It attacks B cells in your immune system. B cells are where the lymphoma starts. This helps stop the cancer cells from growing and spreading to other areas of the body. Rituxan can be used alone or with other chemotherapy drugs.

How is Rituxan administered?

Rituxan may be given systemically through an injection into your vein. It may also be injected into your eye using a small needle. A doctor will give you this injection in the clinic.

The amount given and how often you need the injection will depend on your body size, general health, and the type of cancer being treated. Your doctor will decide your treatment dose and schedule.

What are the side effects of this medication?

Everyone reacts differently to Rituxan injections. While some people may have side effects, most do not. Common side effects include:

- Flu-like symptoms (including fever and chills)
- Weakness
- Body aches
- Nausea

- Headache
- Cough
- Low white blood cell count
- Reactions at the injection site

Most side effects will go away once the treatment is complete. Contact your doctor if you have any symptoms that worry you while receiving this medication.

If you have any other questions about this medication, talk to your eye doctor or pharmacist.

For more information, scan these codes with your smartphone or visit the websites listed.



<http://www.rituxan.com/hem/nhl>



<http://www.drugs.com/rituxan.html>

Disclaimer: This document contains information and/or instructional materials developed by the University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) for the typical patient with your condition. It may include links to online content that was not created by UMHS and for which UMHS does not assume responsibility. It does not replace medical advice from your health care provider because your experience may differ from that of the typical patient. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions about this document, your condition or your treatment plan.

Author: Kathleen Koviak, MPH Candidate

Reviewers: Diane Neelands, RN, Hakan Demirci, MD and Gale Oren, MILS

Unless otherwise noted, Patient Education by [University of Michigan Health System](#) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License](#).

Last Revised 04/2015