

Head & neck cancer

Cisplatin, Cetuximab and 5FU Chemotherapy Regime



Macmillan
Cancer
Support

Patient information

This leaflet has been designed to give you and your family information about what to expect next:

Within the next 7-10 days:

- You will receive an appointment to come in and have a hickman line placed
 - A hickman line is a long tube inserted into your chest to give chemotherapy drugs
 - It is inserted in the xray department under local anaesthetic
 - Chemotherapy unit nurses or district nurses will care for this tube

On day 1:

- You will be in the chemotherapy day unit for a long day
- You will be given three chemotherapy drugs
- And sent home with a drip attached (5FU)

On day 3:

- You will return to the department to have the drip changed (5FU)

On day 5:

- You will return to the department to have the drip disconnected (5FU)

On day 8:

- You will come into the chemotherapy day unit for a drip of one drug only (cetuximab)

On day 15:

- You will come into the chemotherapy day unit for a drip of one drug only (cetuximab)



The process will then start again on day 21.

You will be reviewed regularly by your consultant, usually every three weeks, for each cycle.

However if there are any concerns please contact the 24 hour helpline numbers you have been given.

Usually three 21 day cycles of chemotherapy are given and then a CT scan will be performed for your consultant to assess how your cancer is responding to the chemotherapy. You will get the results of your scan at your next appointment with the consultant to then plan what happens next with your treatment.

Your head and neck specialist nurse will give you Macmillan chemotherapy drug information sheets on these three drugs.

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