



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Erbix[®]

Generic name: Cetuximab

Drug type:

Erbix is a targeted therapy. It is classified as a monoclonal antibody and an epidermal growth factor receptors (EGFR) inhibitor.

How Erbix is given:

- Erbix is given through an infusion into a vein (intravenous, IV).

Erbix side effects:

Important things to remember about the side effects of Erbix include:

- Most people do not experience all of the side effects listed.
- Side effects are almost always reversible and will usually go away after treatment is complete.
- There are many options to help minimize or prevent side effects.

The following side effects are common for patients receiving Erbix:

- Rash (acne-like)
- Generalized weakness
- Fever
- Low magnesium level

These are less common side effects for patients receiving Erbix:

- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Constipation
- Poor appetite
- Headache
- Abdominal pain
- Nail disorder - inflammation of the skin surrounding a fingernail or toenail
- Mouth sores
- Swelling
- Difficulty sleeping
- Itching
- Low red blood cell count (Anemia)
- Cough

Infusion reactions (chills, fever, shortness of breath) have been experienced with this infusion - rarely, this reaction can be severe with difficulty breathing, itching, low blood pressure. Pre-medication is given prior to infusion as a precaution.

When to contact your doctor or health care provider:

Seek emergency help ***immediately*** and notify your health care provider, if you experience the following symptoms:

- Shortness of breath, wheezing, difficulty breathing, closing up of the throat, swelling of facial features, hives (possible allergic reaction).

The following symptoms require medical attention, but are not an emergency. Contact your health care provider ***within 24 hours*** of noticing any of the following:

- Nausea (interferes with ability to eat and unrelieved with prescribed medications)
- Vomiting (vomiting more than 4-5 times in a 24 hour period)
- Diarrhea (4-6 episodes in a 24-hour period)
- Extreme fatigue (unable to carry on self-care activities)
- Mouth sores (painful redness, swelling or ulcers)
- Constipation unrelieved by laxative use
- Swelling of the feet or ankles/sudden weight gain
- Unable to eat or drink for 24 hours or have signs of dehydration: tiredness, thirst, dry mouth, dark and decrease amount of urine, or dizziness.

Always inform your health care provider if you experience any unusual symptoms.