Kadcyla®▼(trastuzumab emtansine) and Herceptin® IV (trastuzumab)/Herceptin® SC (trastuzumab):

Key points to remember

Kadcyla and Herceptin are Look-Alike/Sound-Alike Medication. It is important to remember Kadcyla and Herceptin are two very different products with different active substances which should never be interchanged.

1. Kadcyla is an antibody-drug conjugate (ADC) containing humanised anti-HER2 IgG1 antibody trastuzumab and DM1, a microtubule-inhibitory maytansinoid; it is NOT trastuzumab.

2. Kadcyla is NOT a generic version of Herceptin and has different properties, indications and dose.

3. Do not substitute or combine Kadcyla with or for Herceptin.

4. Never administer Kadcyla in combination with chemotherapy.

5. The maximum dose of Kadcyla is 3.6 mg/kg once every 3 weeks.

6. If a prescription for Kadcyla is written electronically, it is important to ensure that the medication prescribed is trastuzumab emtansine and not trastuzumab.

7. Both the invented name Kadcyla, and its full non-proprietary name (trastuzumab emtansine) should be used and confirmed when prescribing, preparing the infusion solution and administering Kadcyla to patients.

8. In order to prevent medication errors it is important to review the Summary of Product Characteristics and to check the outer carton and vial labels to ensure that the medicinal product being prepared and administered is Kadcyla and not Herceptin.

Please familiarise yourself with the key differences between Kadcyla and Herceptin in relation to indication, dose, administration and packaging.

▼This medicinal product is subject to additional monitoring. This will allow quick identification of new safety information. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions. Reporting forms and information can be found at www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/adrportal and sent by email to postlicensing.medicinesauthority@gov.mt or posted to ADR Reporting, The Medicines Authority Post-licensing Directorate, 203, Level 3, Rue D'Argens, Gżira GŻR 1368, MALTA. As Kadcyla is a biological medicine, healthcare professionals are encouraged to report adverse reactions by brand name and batch number. Adverse events should also be reported to Roche Products Ltd. Please contact Roche Drug Safety Centre by emailing welwyn.uk_dsc@roche.com or calling +44 (0)1707 367554.

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