



The Clatterbridge
Cancer Centre
NHS Foundation Trust

Immune- related Hepatitis

Chemotherapy, Immunotherapy,
and Supportive Medicines

A guide for patients and carers

What is Immune-related Hepatitis?

The immunotherapy you have been receiving activates your immune system to identify and target cancer cells. This can cause your immune system to attack normal tissues within your body, causing living tissue to become inflamed. It has been noted in your recent blood results that the liver function test is abnormal; therefore, you have been diagnosed with immune-related hepatitis.

Hepatitis is a term used to describe inflammation of the liver. This can only be seen in the liver transaminase ALT and AST via a blood test. These levels in the blood will indicate the grade of your hepatitis to the immunotherapy team and treatment will be based on these levels.

Symptoms of Immune-related Hepatitis


Common symptoms of immune related hepatitis include:

- Deranged blood results (AST and ALT)
- Muscle or joint pain
- A high temperature
- Feeling or being sick



Figure 1. Immune cells can cause inflammation of your liver. This is known as Immune-related Hepatitis



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- Feeling unusually tired all the time
 - A general sense of feeling unwell
 - Loss of appetite
 - Dark urine
 - Yellowing of the skin and eyes
 - Itchy skin

Treatment of Immune-related Hepatitis

As this is immune-related we need to reduce the inflammation in the liver. Steroids (oral/intravenous) are used in the first line. These are very effective in treating inflammation. You will be referred for an MRI or ultrasound scan of your liver and will require regular blood monitoring whilst on steroids.

Your immunotherapy treatment will be placed on hold and your consultant informed of your toxicity. Once symptoms are resolved or stable, your oncology team will discuss recommencing immunotherapy treatment when (or if) it is safe to do so.

**If you experience any side effects, or notice any general changes in your health, please contact the Clatterbridge Cancer Centre hotline (24 Hours 7 Days a week):
0800 169 5555**

How we produce our information

All of our leaflets are produced by staff at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre and this information is not sponsored or influenced in any way. Every effort is made to ensure that the information included in this leaflet is accurate and complete and we hope that it will add to any professional advice you have had. All our leaflets are evidence based where appropriate and they are regularly reviewed and updated. If you are concerned about your health in any way, you should consult your healthcare team.

We rely on a number of sources to gather evidence for our information. All of our information is in line with accepted national or international guidelines where possible. Where no guidelines exist, we rely on other reliable sources such as systematic reviews, published clinical trials data or a consensus review of experts. We also use medical textbooks, journals and government publications.

References for this leaflet can be obtained by telephoning 0151 556 5570.

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