

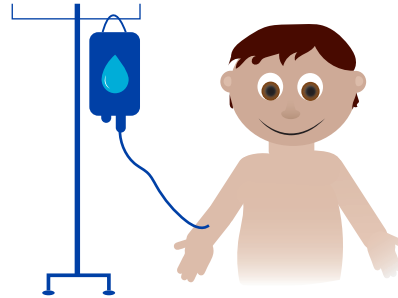
Medications in Nephrotic Syndrome: Rituximab

When do we use rituximab?

In children who may not get better with steroids, have repeated relapses, or have side effects to steroids

The effects of rituximab usually last 3-6 months

How is rituximab given?



Rituximab is a medication injected into your (your child's) vein in the hospital. Typically, you (your child) will receive two doses, one week apart. The first dose may be given during an overnight admission. The medication is given slowly over several hours. Subsequent doses will be decided by the healthcare team.

Precautions on rituximab

Avoid people with infections

Get the Hepatitis B and pneumococcal vaccine before receiving this drug

Take care brushing and flossing teeth to avoid infection

Do not receive other vaccines without talking to your healthcare team

Practice proper hand hygiene

YOU WILL GET OTHER MEDICINES TO PREVENT REACTIONS

Acetaminophen (Tylenol®), diphenhydramine (Benadryl®), and steroids will be given before you (your child) receive(s) rituximab to help prevent allergic reactions.



Side effects

You (your child) may experience these symptoms during the time the drug is being given, or shortly after:

Nausea, vomiting, loose stools, or change in stool color

Flushing

Headache, dizziness, or trouble breathing

Swelling of tongue or throat

Blurred vision

Contact your healthcare team if you (your child) experience(s) these symptoms:

Joint pain	Foot or hand numbness/tingling
Muscle stiffness	Dizziness
Skin rash, itching, or hives	Diarrhea
	Night sweats

Seek immediate medical care if you have (your child has) any of these side effects:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Sores or peeling skin
- Stomach or abdominal pain
- Fever or chills
- Sore throat
- Chest pain or irregular heart beat
- Unusual bruising or bleeding
- Side or lower back pain
- Bloody stools

The following side effects are very rare. They include neurological, gastrointestinal, and respiratory disease and blood cancers.

Rituximab: Additional Resources

Incidence and outcomes of nephrotic syndrome

INSIGHT Publication: *Ethnic Differences in Incidence and Outcomes of Childhood Nephrotic Syndrome*

<http://cjasn.asnjournals.org/content/11/10/1760.short>

How rituximab works

NephCure Kidney International: *How does rituximab work?*

<https://nephcure.org/livingwithkidneydisease/treatment-options/rituximab/>

The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne: *Are there any other treatments for nephrotic syndrome?*

http://www.rch.org.au/uploadedFiles/Main/Content/clinical-guide/130561%20SCOTT%20Nephrotic%20Syndrome%20booklet%20A5_LR.pdf

How rituximab is administered

AboutKidsHealth (SickKids): *How will your child get rituximab?*

<http://www.aboutkidshealth.ca/En/HealthAZ/Drugs/Pages/Rituximab.aspx>

NephCure Kidney International: *How should I take rituximab? How is rituximab administered?*

<https://nephcure.org/livingwithkidneydisease/treatment-options/rituximab/>

Side effects

NephCure Kidney International: *What are the possible side effects of rituximab?*

<https://nephcure.org/livingwithkidneydisease/treatment-options/rituximab/>

AboutKidsHealth (SickKids): *What are the possible side effects of rituximab?*

<http://www.aboutkidshealth.ca/En/HealthAZ/Drugs/Pages/Rituximab.aspx>

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence: *What are the possible harms or side effects?*

<https://www.nice.org.uk/advice/es1/ifp/chapter/Summary-of-possible-benefits-and-harms>