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Avastin (Bevacizumab)

Avastin is a targeted therapy used in combination with chemotherapy.

It is given as an intravenous infusion every 3 weeks and will continue after chemotherapy completed, up to 36 cycles or until disease progression or the occurrence of unacceptable toxicity.

First treatment will be infused over 90 minutes. If no adverse reaction occurs, the infusion rate can be increased in the subsequent treatment and the infusion time can be shortened to 60 or even 30 minutes.

Common side effects	Caring tips
High Blood Pressure 	Blood pressure should be monitored every 2-3 weeks during treatment and after discontinuation of Avastin. If elevated blood pressure persists, anti-hypertensive drug will be prescribed
Epistaxis 	Minor epistaxis will stop spontaneously or stop by pinching the nose. Attend nearby clinic or hospital if epistaxis cannot be stopped in 10 minutes
Proteinuria 	Avastin might affect the kidney and cause proteinuria. While on treatment, renal function with serum creatinine should be monitored and urine should be checked for protein during follow up
Diarrhea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase fluid intake to keep adequate hydration • Avoid alcohol or caffeine containing beverages which might aggravate dehydration
Low White Blood Cells	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low white blood cell count will cause infection • Avoid contact infectious patient (e.g.cold) • Maintain personal hygiene • Attend nearby clinic or hospital if you have fever (>100.4°F/>38 °C), malaise or any sign of infection
Abdominal Pain 	Take pain-killer prescribed by doctor
Other serious but rare side effects	Gastrointestinal bleeding, Deep Vein thrombosis

Remarks: Different patient will have different side effects towards chemotherapy. The response should only be compared with that after previous chemotherapy for each individual. Please inform doctor for this condition on follow-up.