

What to Expect when Receiving Interleukin-2 (IL-2)?

(Dr. Alva)

Receiving IL-2: What to Expect

The following information describes what often takes place for individuals receiving IL-2. This information is to help you know what to expect regarding the time before, during and after you receive IL-2. This is to be used as a guide and your treatment may be different depending on your individual situation.

What will occur prior to IL-2 Treatment?

- Your physician will meet with you in clinic to discuss what treatment with IL-2 will be like. You will learn about what to expect such as side effects, how IL-2 is administered, and the effectiveness of treatment. You will also need to sign a consent.
- Prior to your admission, you will be scheduled for lab work, Echocardiogram (an ultra sound of your heart) and a CAT Scan (an X-ray test) to assess and ensure that you can safely receive IL-2.
- If test results are acceptable, you will receive an appointment to have an intravenous central catheter placed. This is done on the same day prior to hospital admission in Interventional Radiology on Level B1, Reception A. You will receive a phone call from Radiology/clinic nurse when this is scheduled. Instructions will be given to you such as not having anything to eat or drink for six hours prior to the procedure and about holding any aspirin or ibuprofen for 7 days prior to line placement.
- It is a good idea to have someone come with you on the day of admission.

What will take place on the day of central line placement and hospital admission for IL-2 treatment?

- You will go to Interventional Radiology at the instructed time on the day of admission. If a bed is available after central line placement, you will be admitted directly to 8A from Interventional Radiology. If a bed is not available, you will go to the patient business service lounge on floor 2 in the Taubman Center. You may have to wait for up to a few hours depending on bed availability in the hospital. Please discuss any concerns with your physician if this will be difficult for you to wait. We will try to accommodate you as quickly as possible.
- Dr. Alva will make all treatment and supportive care decisions during your time in the hospital.
- IL-2 is administered through an intravenous line every 8 hours with the first dose usually starting at 4:00 pm on Monday and the last potential dose on Friday (Cycle 1). This is followed by 9 days of rest and then a second 5-day cycle.
- You will tentatively be discharged on Saturday of this week.

What will take place after discharge from the hospital?

- A CAT scan will be scheduled approximately 4-6 weeks after you complete treatment.
- You will be scheduled for a follow up clinic appointment after the CAT scan.

Who should I call if I have questions or concerns?

Questions should be directed to (734) 647-8903 or to the number directed by your physician.

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