

# Medication Instructions Before Your Intrathecal RIT Injections

This information explains when to start taking certain medications before each of your intrathecal radioimmunotherapy (RIT) antibody injections. Your nurse practitioner (NP) will fill in the information with you. Call them if you have questions.

## Potassium Iodide (SSKI®) and Liothyronine (Cytomel®)

Potassium iodide and liothyronine are medications to help protect your thyroid during your treatment. If you're getting an antibody injection radiolabeled with iodine, you'll need to take potassium iodide and liothyronine before and after each injection. Your healthcare provider will give you a prescription.

**Start taking potassium iodide and liothyronine 7 days before each antibody injection. Keep taking them every day until 2 weeks after each antibody injection.** Your oncologist or NP will tell you what dose (amount) to take and when to start and stop taking them. You can write the information in the table below to help you remember.

Start Date	End Date	Medication	Dose	How Often
		Potassium iodide (SSKI)		
		Liothyronine (Cytomel)		

Your oncologist or NP will give you a medication diary. Use it to record the potassium iodide and liothyronine you take. Write your initials in each box when you take your medication. Be sure to write any missed doses in your diary. Bring

your diary to all your appointments.



**Take the potassium iodide (SSKI) and liothyronine (Cytomel) until the end date your oncologist or NP gave you.**  
Read your medication diary for more information.

## Dexamethasone (Decadron<sup>®</sup>) and an Antacid

Dexamethasone is a steroid medication that helps control inflammation (swelling).

**Start taking dexamethasone the night before each antibody injection.**

You'll take a total of 6 doses of dexamethasone for each injection:

- 1 dose the night before each injection.
- 2 doses in clinic on the day of each injection. A nurse will give you these doses.
- 2 doses the day after each injection.
- 1 dose the second day after each injection.

Your oncologist or NP will tell you exactly what dose to take and when to start and stop taking it. You can write the information in the table below to help you remember.

Date	Morning	Evening
Night before injection: _____	xxx	Dexamethasone dose: _____
Day of injection: _____	<i>Dexamethasone given in clinic</i>	<i>Dexamethasone given in clinic</i>
Day after injection: _____	Dexamethasone dose: _____	Dexamethasone dose: _____
Two days after injection: _____	Dexamethasone dose: _____	xxx

## Antacid Schedule

Sometimes, dexamethasone can upset your stomach. Taking an antacid on the days you take the dexamethasone can help prevent this. For most people, your healthcare provider will give you a prescription for a liquid antacid. On the day of your antibody injections, a nurse will give you the antacid in clinic.

Your oncologist or NP will tell you exactly what dose to take and when to start and stop taking it. You can write the information in the table below to help you remember.

Antacid Name	Dose	How Often

For more information about your intrathecal RIT, read the resource *About Your Intrathecal Radioimmunotherapy (RIT) for Pediatric Patients* ([www.mskcc.org/pe/intrathecal\\_rit\\_peds](http://www.mskcc.org/pe/intrathecal_rit_peds)).

If you have any questions, contact a member of your healthcare team directly. If you're a patient at MSK and you need to reach a provider after 5:00 PM, during the weekend, or on a holiday, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit [www.mskcc.org/pe](http://www.mskcc.org/pe) to search our virtual library.

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