

## **Pneumonitis, Cough, Shortness of Breath**

Pneumonitis is inflammation of the lungs and can occur as a side effect of certain drugs used to treat kidney cancer, including the mTOR inhibitors temsirolimus (Torisel) and everolimus (Afinitor); and the immune checkpoint inhibitor Nivolumab (Opdivo).

### Symptoms of Pneumonitis

- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath
- Burning sensation in the chest
- Fever
- Fatigue

### **When to call your oncologist or oncology nurse: \***

- If you have any symptoms of pneumonitis including new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, fatigue or fever.
- Anytime you have difficulty breathing.

\* If you are receiving treatment with an immunotherapy agent (i.e. Nivolumab (OPDIVO) and are experiencing shortness of breath, new or worsening cough, contact your oncology care provider immediately

### **Diagnosis of Pneumonitis**

Your doctor may order any of the following tests to assist in the diagnosis of pneumonitis.

- Chest X-ray
- CT Scan
- Lung function tests

### **Things you can do to minimize pneumonitis:**

- Inform your health care team right away if you experience any symptoms of pneumonitis.
- Inform your doctor if you have a history of asthma, or other chronic respiratory conditions before starting a new therapy
- Stop smoking

**AVOID the following when you have pneumonitis:**

- There is nothing you need to avoid to prevent this side effect from occurring.

**Over-the-Counter medications (products) you can use to treat pneumonitis:**

- There are no over the counter medications to treat this side effect
- Informing your health care team is **imperative** if you develop difficulty breathing and/or a dry cough that does not go away.

**Medications that may be prescribed to treat pneumonitis:**

- Your doctor may prescribe steroids, and in some situations antibiotics
- In certain cases, your anti-cancer treatment is interrupted, but can be restarted in most cases.

You should rely primarily upon your doctor for medical information.

[www.kidneycancer.org](http://www.kidneycancer.org)