

Medication Information Sheet

brentuximab vedotin (bren-tuk-see-mab ve-doe-tin)

This document provides general information about your medication. It does not replace the advice of your health care professional. Always discuss your therapy with your health care professional and refer to the package insert for more details.

Other Name: Adcetris®

Appearance: Clear to slightly opalescent, colorless solution mixed into larger bags of fluids for injection

What is this medication for?

- For Hodgkin's lymphoma or systemic anaplastic large-cell lymphoma (sALCL)

What should I do before I have this medication?

- Tell your doctor and pharmacist if you have or had significant medical condition(s) such as:
 - ◊ heart, lung or kidney problems,
 - ◊ nerve problems (numbness or tingling in fingers or toes),
 - ◊ or any allergies.
- People with cancer have a higher risk of getting other cancers or developing blood clots. Some cancer medications may increase these risks, especially if used for a long period of time. Discuss any concerns about this medication with your health care team.

How will this medication affect sex, pregnancy and breastfeeding?

- The use of this medication in men or women may cause harm to the unborn baby if pregnancy occurs. Let your health care team know if you or your partner is pregnant, becomes pregnant during treatment, or if you are breastfeeding
- If there is ANY chance that you or your partner may become pregnant, you and your partner together must use 2 effective forms of birth control at the same time after the last dose. Keep using birth control until at least **6 months** after the last dose. Discuss with your healthcare team.
- Do not breastfeed while using this drug.
- This medication may affect fertility (ability to get pregnant).

*The most updated version and more symptom control information can be found on: <http://www.cancercare.on.ca/druginfo>

Prepared with input from the Cancer Care Ontario-Medication Information Sheets Working Group.

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How is this medication given?

- This drug is given by injection into a vein.

What else do I need to know while on this medication?

- Do not have any grapefruit, starfruit, Seville oranges or their juices or products while on this treatment, since this may increase side effects.
- This drug can interact with other drugs, and can result in the drugs not working as well or cause severe side effects.
- Make sure your doctor and pharmacist know about all your medicines (prescription, over-the-counter, herbals and supplements), especially antibiotics, anti-seizure or blood pressure medications, St. John's Wort, or the anti-cancer drug bleomycin. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting or stopping any of them.
- For fever or mild aches and pain:
 - You may take acetaminophen (Tylenol®) tablets. Ask your doctor or pharmacist about the right dose for you.
 - Talk to your doctor first before starting ibuprofen (Advil®), naproxen (Aleve®) or aspirin, since these may increase your chance of bleeding.
 - If you are already taking aspirin regularly, such as for heart conditions, talk to your doctor.
 - If you feel unwell, take your temperature before using any of these drugs, since they may hide a fever.
 - Drinking alcohol and smoking during your treatment may increase some side effects and make your medication less effective. Speak to your health care team about smoking and drinking alcohol while on treatment.

What are the side effects of this medication?

You may not have all of the side effects below. You may have side effects that are not listed.

Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
Very Common Side Effects (50 or more out of 100 people)	
Tingling, numb fingers and toes (may be severe) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May slowly get better after your treatment ends. 	Contact your health care team if no improvement or

Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
Very Common Side Effects (50 or more out of 100 people)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact your health care team if you have trouble doing up buttons, writing, picking up small objects, have pain or trouble moving. 	if severe

Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
Common Side Effects (25 to 49 out of 100 people)	
<p>Unusual bleeding or bruising (may be severe)</p> <p>You may have black stools, cough up blood, blood in your urine, purple or red dots on your skin or bleeding that will not stop.</p> <p>Fever, chills, infection</p> <p>You have a fever if your temperature taken in your mouth (oral temperature) is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38.3°C (100.9°F) or higher at any time OR 38.0°C (or 100.4°F) or higher for at least one hour. <p>While you are getting treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep a digital thermometer at home and take your temperature if you feel hot or unwell (for example, chills). Avoid taking medications that treat a fever before you take your temperature (for example, Tylenol®, acetaminophen, Advil® or ibuprofen) as they may hide a fever. Do not eat or drink anything hot or cold right before taking your temperature. Wash your hands often. Check with your doctor before getting any vaccines, surgeries, medical procedures or visiting your dentist. <p>If you have a fever, talk to your health care team or go to the closest emergency room.</p> <p>See our Neutropenia (Low white blood cell count) pamphlet for more information.</p>	Get emergency medical help right away

Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
Less Common Side Effects (10 to 24 out of 100 people)	
<p>Fatigue (tiredness)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be active and aim to get 30 minutes of moderate exercise (you are able to talk comfortably while exercising) on most days. Check with your health care team before starting any new exercise. • Pace yourself, do not rush. Put off less important activities. Rest when you need to. • Eat well and stay hydrated by drinking at least 6 to 8 glasses of water or other liquids every day (unless your doctor told you to drink more or less). • Avoid driving or using machinery if you are feeling tired <p>See our Fatigue pamphlet for more information.</p>	<p>Contact your healthcare team if no improvement or if severe</p>
<p>Nausea and vomiting (generally mild)</p> <p>May occur in hours to days after your treatment.</p> <p>If you have nausea or vomiting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take anti-nausea medication(s) as prescribed to you by your doctor. • Drink clear liquids and have small meals. Get fresh air and rest. • Do not eat spicy, fried foods or foods with a strong smell. • Limit caffeine (e.g. coffee, tea) and alcohol. • Contact your health care team if the prescribed anti-nausea medications are not helping to control your nausea and vomiting. <p>Also see Nausea & Vomiting pamphlet for more information.</p>	<p>Contact your healthcare team if no improvement or if severe</p>
<p>Cough; feeling short of breath</p> <p>You may have cough and feel short of breath without any signs of infection, such as a sore throat or a stuffed nose.</p> <p>Rarely this may be severe with chest pain, trouble breathing or coughing up blood. If this happens get medical help right away.</p>	<p>Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe</p>
<p>Diarrhea</p> <p>May happen days to weeks after you get your treatment.</p> <p>If you have diarrhea :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take anti-diarrhea medication if your health care team prescribed it. • Avoid foods or drinks with artificial sweetener (e.g. chewing gum, “diet” drinks), coffee and alcohol. • Eat many small meals and snacks instead of 2 or 3 large meals. 	<p>Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe</p>

*The most updated version and more symptom control information can be found on: <http://www.cancercare.on.ca/druginfo>
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Side effects and what to do	When to contact doctor?
Less Common Side Effects (10 to 24 out of 100 people)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink at least 6 to 8 cups of liquids each day. Talk to your health care team if you can't drink 6-8 cups of liquids each day when you have diarrhea. You may need special liquids with salt and sugar, called Oral Rehydration Therapy. <p>See the Diarrhea pamphlet for more information.</p>	
<p>Low appetite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may not feel like eating or you may lose weight. • Try to eat foods that you like and eat small meals throughout the day. • You may need to take meal supplements to help keep your weight up. • Talk to your health care team if you have a low appetite. • See our Loss of appetite pamphlet for more information. 	Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe
<p>Headache; mild joint, muscle pain or cramps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take your pain medication as prescribed by your doctor. • You can take acetaminophen (Tylenol®) tablets as needed for mild aches and pains. Ask your doctor or pharmacist about the right dose for you. • Talk to your doctor or pharmacist first before taking ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®), naproxen (Aleve®) or aspirin. These medication may increase bleeding risk. • Rest often and try light exercise as it may help. 	Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe
<p>Allergic reaction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most common symptoms include fever, flushing, itchiness, rash, swollen lips, face or tongue, wheezing, chest and throat tightness. • It may occur during or shortly after the medication is given to you. Let your health care team know right away if this happens to you. • You may be given medicines to prevent or treat this reaction 	Get emergency medical help right away
<p>Pains or cramps in the belly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have constipation or diarrhea it may be causing the pain in your belly. • If the pain is severe, gets worse or doesn't go away, talk to your health care team about other possible causes. 	Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe
<p>Constipation</p> <p>To help prevent constipation :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink more liquids and eat well. Drink at least 6 to 8 cups of liquids each day unless you have been told otherwise. 	Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe

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Less Common Side Effects (10 to 24 out of 100 people)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be Active. Exercise can help to keep you regular. • Try to eat more fiber (e.g. fruits with skin, leafy greens and whole grains). If you take opioid pain medication, ask your health care team if eating more fibre is right for you. <p>To help treat constipation :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have not had a bowel movement in 2 to 3 days you may need to take a laxative. Ask your health care team what to do. <p>See the Constipation Pamphlet for more information.</p>	
<p>Rash; dry, itchy skin</p> <p>Rash may be severe in some rare cases and cause your skin to blister or peel. If this happens, get emergency medical help right away.</p> <p>To prevent and treat dry skin,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use skin moisturizer. • Protect your skin from the sun and the cold. • Use sunscreen with UVA and UVB protection and a SPF of at least 30. 	<p>Contact your health care team if no improvement or if severe</p>

Other rare, but serious side effects are possible.

If you experience ANY of the following, speak to your cancer health care provider or get emergency medical help right away:

- Pain, swelling or hardening of a vein in your arm or leg
- Severe chest, arm or belly pain (may extend to your back)
- Sudden loss of vision, speech, or the use of your arms or legs
- Fast, irregular or racing heartbeat
- Yellowish skin, eyes or unusually dark pee
- Confusion, difficulty thinking
- Joint pain with fever
- Lower back pain, body swelling, passing little or no pee or unusual weight gain

For more links on how to manage your symptoms go to www.cancercare.on.ca/symptoms.

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The information set out in the medication information sheets, regimen information sheets, and symptom management information (for patients) contained in the Drug Formulary (the "Formulary") is intended to be used by health professionals and patients for informational purposes only. The information is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, drug interactions or side effects of a certain drug, nor should it be used to indicate that use of a particular drug is safe, appropriate or effective for a given condition.

A patient should always consult a healthcare provider if he/she has any questions regarding the information set out in the Formulary. The information in the Formulary is not intended to act as or replace medical advice and should not be relied upon in any such regard. All uses of the Formulary are subject to clinical judgment and actual prescribing patterns may not follow the information provided in the Formulary.

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