

Medication Information Sheet

tremelimumab (tre-me-LI-mu-mab)

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: Imjudo®

Appearance: slightly yellow solution mixed into larger bags of fluids

What is this medication for?

- For treating a type of liver cancer called hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).
- Tremelimumab is an immunotherapy drug. For more information on immunotherapy, click [here](#).

What should I do before I have this medication?

Tell your health care team if you have or had significant medical condition(s), especially if you have / had:

- liver, kidney, heart or lung problems
- immune conditions (such as ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, or lupus)
- problems with hormone producing glands (such as your thyroid, pituitary, adrenal glands, or pancreas)
- an organ transplant
- active infections
- diabetes, or
- any allergies

Remember to:

- Tell your health care team about all of the other medications you are taking, especially if you are taking corticosteroids (such as prednisone).
- Keep taking other medications that have been prescribed for you, unless you have been told not to by your health care team.

You will have a blood test to check for hepatitis B before starting treatment. See the [Hepatitis B and Cancer Medications](#) pamphlet for more information.

How will this medication affect sex, pregnancy and breastfeeding?

Talk to your health care team about:

- How this medication may affect your sexual health.
- How this medication may affect your ability to have a baby, if this applies to you.

This medication may harm an unborn baby. Tell your health care team if you or your partner are pregnant, become pregnant during treatment, or are breastfeeding.

- If there is **any** chance of pregnancy happening, you and your partner together must use **2 effective forms of birth control** at the same time until at least **3 months** after your last dose. Talk to your health care team about which birth control options are best for you.
- Do not breastfeed while on this medication and for at least **3 months** after your last dose.

How is this medication given?

- This drug is given through an IV (injected into a vein). It is usually given as a single dose. Talk to your health care team about your treatment schedule.
- If you missed your treatment appointment, talk to your health care team to find out what to do.

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

Will this medication interact with other medications or natural health products?

- Although this medication is unlikely to interact with other medications, vitamins, foods and natural health products, tell your health care team about all of your:
 - ◊ prescription and over-the-counter (non-prescription) medications and all other drugs, such as cannabis/marijuana (medical or recreational)
 - ◊ natural health products such as vitamins, herbal teas, homeopathic medicines, and other supplements
- Check with your health care team before starting or stopping any of them.

What should I do if I feel unwell, have pain, a headache or a fever?

- **Always** check your temperature to see if you have a fever **before** taking any medications for fever or pain (such as acetaminophen (Tylenol®) or ibuprofen (Advil®)).
 - Fever can be a sign of infection that may need treatment right away.
 - If you take these medications before you check for fever, they may lower your temperature and you may not know you have an infection.

How to check for fever:

Keep a digital (electronic) thermometer at home and take your temperature if you feel hot or unwell (for example, chills, headache, mild pain).

- You have a fever if your temperature taken in your mouth (oral temperature) is:
 - 38.3°C (100.9°F) or higher at any time
- OR
- 38.0°C (100.4°F) or higher for at least one hour.

If you do have a fever:

- **Try to contact your health care team. If you are not able to talk to them for advice, you MUST get emergency medical help right away.**
- Ask your health care team for the [Fever](#) pamphlet for more information.

If you do not have a fever but have mild symptoms such as headache or mild pain:

- Ask your health care team about the right medication for you. **Acetaminophen (Tylenol®)** is a safe choice for most people.
- **Talk to your health care team before you start taking** Ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®), naproxen (Aleve®) or ASA (Aspirin®), as they may increase your chance of bleeding or interact with your cancer treatment.
- Talk to your health care team if you already take **low dose aspirin** for a medical condition (such as a heart problem). It may still be safe to take.

What to DO while on this medication:

- DO check with your health care team before getting any vaccinations, surgery, dental work or other medical procedures.
- DO tell your health care team about ANY new symptom you develop. You may need urgent medical treatment.

What NOT to DO while on this medication:

- DO NOT smoke or drink alcohol while on treatment without talking to your health care team first. Smoking and drinking can make side effects worse and make your treatment not work as well.

What are the side effects of this medication?

The following table lists side effects that you may have when getting tremelimumab. The table is set up to list the most common side effects first and the least common last. It is unlikely that you will have all of the side effects listed and you may have some that are not listed.

- Tremelimumab makes your immune system work harder. Your immune system is what fights infections and your cancer.
- When your immune system is working harder, you may have side effects in your bowels, liver, lungs, skin, kidneys, hormones and other organs.
- These side effects may be mild or may become serious or life-threatening in rare cases.
- They may happen during your treatment or weeks to months after your treatment ends.
- Some things to watch for are:
 - ◊ diarrhea
 - ◊ a new cough
 - ◊ problems with breathing
 - ◊ rash
 - ◊ any other new symptom

If you have side effects, you must talk to your health care team right away. You may need urgent treatment.

Read over the side effect table so that you know what to look for and when to get help. Refer to this table if you experience any side effects while on tremelimumab.

Common Side Effects (25 to 49 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p>Rash; dry, itchy skin</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may have cracked, rough, flaking or peeling areas of the skin. Your skin may look red and feel warm, like a sunburn. Your skin may have bumps, itch, burn, sting or feel very tender when touched. <p>What to do?</p> <p>To prevent and treat dry skin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use fragrance-free 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. Avoid perfumed products and lotions that contain alcohol. Drink 6 to 8 cups of non-alcoholic, non-caffeinated liquids each day, unless your health care team has told you to drink more or less. <p>In rare cases, rash may be severe if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rash covers more than a third of your skin (for example your whole trunk, or an arm AND a leg) or The rash causes your skin to blister or peel. <p>If this happens, talk to your health care team or get emergency medical help right away.</p>	<p>Talk to your health care team for advice.</p> <p>Talk to your health care team. If you are unable to talk to the team for advice, you must get emergency medical help right away.</p>
<p>Diarrhea</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loose, watery, unformed stool (poo) that may happen days to weeks after you get your treatment. <p>What to do?</p> <p>If you have diarrhea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take anti-diarrhea medication if your health care team prescribed it or told you to take it. Do not eat foods or drinks with artificial sweetener (like chewing gum or 'diet' drinks), coffee and alcohol, until your diarrhea has stopped. 	<p>Talk to your health care team for advice.</p>

Common Side Effects (25 to 49 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eat many small meals and snacks instead of 2 or 3 large meals. • Drink at least 6 to 8 cups of liquids each day, unless your health care team has told you to drink more or less. • Talk to your health care team if you can't drink 6 to 8 cups of liquids each day when you have diarrhea. You may need to drink special liquids with salt and sugar, called Oral Rehydration Therapy. <p>Ask your health care team for the Diarrhea pamphlet for more information.</p> <p>In rare cases, your diarrhea may be severe due to inflammation of the intestines if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You have blood in your stool (poo) or • You have more than 4 bowel movements (going poo) a day (if that is not normal for you) <p>If this happens, talk to your health care team or get emergency medical help right away.</p>	<p>Talk to your health care team. If you are unable to talk to the team for advice, you must get emergency medical help right away</p>

Less Common Side Effects (10 to 24 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p>Pains or cramps in the belly</p> <p>(May be severe)</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pain or cramps in your belly. • Constipation and diarrhea can cause pain in your belly. <p>What to do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the pain is severe, gets worse or doesn't go away, talk to your health care team about other possible causes. 	<p>Talk to your health care team if it does not improve or if it is severe</p>

Less Common Side Effects (10 to 24 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have severe belly cramps, pain, or tenderness and you also have a fever, talk to your health care team or get emergency medical help right away <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ You have a fever if your temperature taken in your mouth (oral temperature) is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 38.3°C (100.9°F) or higher at any time OR ▪ 38.0°C (100.4°F) or higher for at least one hour. 	
<p>Liver problems</p> <p>Your health care team may check your liver function with a blood test. Liver changes do not usually cause any symptoms.</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rarely, you may develop yellowish skin or eyes, unusually dark pee or pain on the right side of your belly. This may be severe. <p>What to do?</p> <p>If you have any symptoms of liver problems, get emergency medical help right away.</p>	Get emergency medical help right away
<p>Changes in thyroid activity</p> <p>Thyroid changes may happen weeks to months after you receive your treatment.</p> <p>Your health care team may check your thyroid activity regularly with a blood test.</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <p>Underactive thyroid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unusual weight gain • A lack of energy or feeling tired • Getting cold easily • Dry skin, nails or hair that breaks easily • Constipation (having bowel movements (poo) less often than normal) <p>Overactive thyroid:</p>	Talk to your health care team as soon as possible

Less Common Side Effects (10 to 24 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unusual weight loss • Feeling anxious, irritable or having trouble sleeping • Sweating a lot and having trouble dealing with hot weather • Increased appetite • Having bowel movements (poo) more than usual • Weakness (especially in the arms and thighs) • Fast or uneven heartbeats. <p>What to do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your health care team may give you prescription medication to treat your underactive or overactive thyroid. • If you have weight changes along with any of the other symptoms listed, talk to your health care team as soon as possible. 	

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:

- New cough, chest pain, shortness of breath, trouble breathing, or coughing up blood.
- Signs of an allergic reaction such as fever, itchiness, rash, swollen lips, face or tongue, or chest and throat tightness
- Peeing more often than normal and feeling very thirsty

Who do I contact if I have questions or need help?

My cancer health care provider is: _____

During the day I should contact: _____

Evenings, weekends and holidays: _____

Other Notes:

April 2024 New patient information sheet

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

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.