



Provincial Health Services Authority

## For the Patient: **Atezolizumab SC injection**

Other names: **TECENTRIQ® SC**

- **Atezolizumab** (a" te zoe liz' ue mab) is a drug that is used to treat some types of cancer. It is a monoclonal antibody, a type of protein designed to help your own body's immune system target cancer cells to stop them from growing. It is a clear liquid that is injected **under the skin (subcutaneously or SC)**.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to atezolizumab **or hyaluronidase** before receiving atezolizumab **subcutaneous injection**.
- A **blood test** may be taken before each treatment. The dose and timing of your treatment may be changed based on the test results and/or other side effects.
- Other drugs may **interact** with atezolizumab. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start or stop taking any other drugs.
- Do not receive any **immunizations** before discussing with your doctor.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of atezolizumab.
- Atezolizumab may affect **fertility** in women. If you plan to have children, discuss this with your doctor before being treated with atezolizumab.
- Atezolizumab may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with atezolizumab and for at least five months after the last dose. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breastfeed during treatment and for at least five months after the last dose.
- **Tell** your doctor, dentist, and other health professionals that you are being treated with atezolizumab before you receive any treatment from them.
- **Tell** your healthcare team that you are being treated with atezolizumab **subcutaneous injection before you receive other subcutaneous injections. Other medications should not be injected into the same injection site as atezolizumab if possible.**

Side effects are listed in the following table in the order in which they may occur. **Your treatment is a type of therapy known as immunotherapy and it may cause serious side effects related to your immune system. It is important to report side effects**

**immediately to your healthcare team. Do not manage side effects at home without speaking with your healthcare team. Symptoms may be delayed and can develop months after your last dose. Refer to specific protocol handout (if available) for more details.**

| SIDE EFFECTS   | MANAGEMENT  |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Allergic reactions</b> may rarely occur. Signs of an allergic reaction may include flushing, rash, itching, fever, chills, swelling, or breathing problems. This can occur immediately or within one day after receiving atezolizumab.</p>   | <p>Tell your nurse if this happens while you are receiving atezolizumab or contact your healthcare team <b>immediately</b> if this happens after you leave the clinic.</p>  |
| <p><b>Redness, swelling, pain, or tenderness</b> commonly occurs where the needle was placed.</p> <p>These reactions typically occur within 1-2 days and usually disappear on their own. Reactions are less common with later treatments even if you have a reaction with the first treatment.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply cool compresses for 15-20 minutes several times a day after the injection.</li> </ul> <p>Tell your healthcare team at the next visit if these reactions are very painful or last longer than 2 days.</p>   |
| <p>Your <b>white blood cells</b> may decrease after your treatment. White blood cells protect your body by fighting bacteria (germs) that cause infection. When they are low, <b>you are at greater risk of having an infection.</b></p>   | <p>To help prevent infection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wash your hands often and always after using the bathroom.</li> <li>• Avoid crowds and people who are sick.</li> <li>• Call your healthcare team <b>immediately</b> at the first sign of an infection such as fever (over 38°C or 100°F by an oral thermometer), chills, cough, or burning when you pass urine.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Diarrhea</b> may sometimes occur.</p>  | <p>See your healthcare team or get emergency help.</p>  |
| <p><b>Constipation</b> may sometimes occur.</p>  | <p>See or call your healthcare team as soon as possible.</p>  |
| <p><b>Nausea</b> and <b>vomiting</b> may occur. If you are vomiting and it is not controlled, you can quickly become dehydrated. Most people have little or no nausea.</p>   |   |
| <p><b>Headache</b> may sometimes occur.</p>  |   |
| <p><b>Skin rashes</b> may sometimes occur.</p>   |   |
| <p><b>Swelling</b> of hands, feet, or lower legs may sometimes occur if your body retains extra fluid.</p>   |   |

| SIDE EFFECTS  | MANAGEMENT  |
|---|---|
| <b>Muscle or joint pain</b> may sometimes occur.  | You may take acetaminophen (e.g., <b>TYLENOL®</b> ) every 4-6 hours to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day or ibuprofen (e.g., <b>ADVIL®</b> ) for mild to moderate pain. Tell your healthcare team if the pain interferes with your activity or does not go away. |
| <b>Sugar control</b> may be affected in patients with diabetes.   | Check your blood sugar regularly if you have diabetes. Tell your healthcare team if your blood sugars are not controlled.   |
| <b>Loss of appetite</b> sometimes occurs.   | Try the ideas in <i>Food Ideas to Help with Decreased Appetite</i> .*   |
| <b>Tiredness</b> and lack of energy may sometimes occur.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you are feeling tired.</li> <li>• Try the ideas in <i>Fatigue/Tiredness – Patient Handout</i>.*</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Hair loss</b> is rare with atezolizumab. If you lose hair, it will grow back once you stop treatment with atezolizumab. Colour and texture may change. | If hair loss is a problem, refer to <i>Resources for Hair Loss and Appearance Changes – Patient Handout</i> .*  |

**\*Please ask your nurse or pharmacist for a copy.**

### **CHECK WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE TEAM OR GET EMERGENCY HELP IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE:**

- Signs of an **allergic reaction** (rare) soon after a treatment including flushing, face swelling, rash, itching, fever, chills, or breathing problems.
- Signs of an **infection** such as fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer), shaking chills; severe sore throat, productive cough (coughing up thick or green sputum); cloudy or foul smelling urine; painful, tender, or swollen red skin wounds or sores.
- **Diarrhea** or changes in **bowel habits**; black tarry stools; blood or mucous in the stool; **abdominal pain**.
- Changes in **eyesight, eye pain, or redness**.
- Signs of **heart or lung problems** such as new or worsening cough, chest pain, shortness of breath, difficulty in breathing, irregular heartbeat, coughing blood, swelling of feet or lower legs, or fainting.
- Signs of **liver problems** such as yellow eyes or skin, white or clay-coloured stools.
- Signs of **kidney problems** such as lower back or side pain, blood in the urine, swelling of feet or lower legs, or change in amount or colour of urine.
- Signs of **blood sugar problems** such as thirst and frequent need to pass urine.

