



Provincial Health Services Authority

For the Patient: Brentuximab vedotin

Other names: ADCETRIS®

- **Brentuximab vedotin** (bren tux' i mab ve doe' tin) is a drug that is used to treat some types of cancer. It is made up of a monoclonal antibody, a type of protein designed to target and interfere with the growth of cancer cells, and a second drug which is intended to kill cancer cells. It is a clear liquid that is injected into a vein.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to brentuximab vedotin before receiving brentuximab vedotin.
- A **blood test** may be taken before each treatment. The dose and timing of your chemotherapy may be changed based on the test results and/or other side effects.
- Other drugs and foods such as grapefruit or grapefruit juice may **interact** with brentuximab vedotin. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start or stop taking any other drugs and/or grapefruit.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of brentuximab vedotin.
- Brentuximab vedotin may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use two forms of **birth control** while being treated with brentuximab vedotin. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breastfeed during treatment.
- **Tell** your doctor, dentist, and other health professionals that you are being treated with brentuximab vedotin before you receive any treatment from them.

Changes in blood counts

Brentuximab vedotin may cause temporary changes in your blood counts. Your doctor will be following these changes carefully by ordering regular blood tests. Adjustment of your treatment may be needed in certain circumstances.

BLOOD COUNTS	MANAGEMENT
<p>Normal white blood cells protect your body by fighting bacteria (germs) that cause infection. When they are low, you are at greater risk of having an infection.</p>	<p>To help prevent infection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash your hands often and always after using the bathroom. • Avoid crowds and people who are sick. • Call your healthcare team immediately 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.
<p>Normal platelets help your blood to clot normally after an injury (e.g., cut). When the platelet count is low, you may be more likely to bruise or bleed.</p>	<p>To help prevent bleeding problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try not to bruise, cut, or burn yourself. • Clean your nose by blowing gently. Do not pick your nose. • Avoid constipation. • Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush as your gums may bleed more easily. <p>Some medications such as ASA (e.g., ASPIRIN®) or ibuprofen (e.g., ADVIL®) may increase your risk of bleeding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not stop taking any medication that has been prescribed by your doctor (e.g., ASA for your heart). • For minor pain, try acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) first, but occasional use of ibuprofen may be acceptable.
<p>Red blood cells carry oxygen throughout your body. Your red blood cells may decrease after your treatment. You may feel more tired or short of breath than usual.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell your healthcare team if you are feeling light-headed, weak, or short of breath. • Try the ideas in <i>Fatigue/Tiredness – Patient Handout</i>.*

Side effects are listed in the following table in the order in which they may occur. Tips to help manage the side effects are included.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p>Allergic reactions may rarely occur. Signs of an allergic reaction may include chills, nausea, rash, itching, swelling, or breathing problems.</p> <p>This can occur immediately or up to a few days after receiving brentuximab vedotin.</p>	<p>Tell your nurse if this happens while you are receiving brentuximab vedotin or contact your oncologist immediately if this happens after you leave the clinic.</p>
<p>Brentuximab vedotin burns if it leaks under the skin.</p>	<p>Tell your nurse or doctor immediately if you feel burning, stinging, or any other change while the drug is being given.</p>
<p>Pain or tenderness may occur where the needle was placed.</p>	<p>Apply cool compresses or soak in cool water for 15-20 minutes several times a day.</p>
<p>Nausea and vomiting may occur after your treatment. If you are vomiting and it is not controlled, you can quickly become dehydrated. Most people have little or no nausea.</p>	<p>You may be given a prescription for antinausea drug(s) to take before your chemotherapy treatment and/or at home. It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred, so follow directions closely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink plenty of fluids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts. • Try the ideas in <i>Practical Tips to Manage Nausea</i>.* <p>Tell your healthcare team if nausea or vomiting continues or is not controlled with your antinausea drug(s).</p>
<p>Skin rashes or itching may sometimes occur.</p>	<p>If itching is very irritating, call your healthcare team. Otherwise, be sure to mention it at your next visit.</p>
<p>Fever and chills may sometimes occur shortly after treatment with brentuximab vedotin. Fever should last no longer than 24 hours.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day. • Fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer) which occurs more than a few days after treatment may be a sign of an infection. Report this to your healthcare team immediately.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Diarrhea may sometimes occur. If you have diarrhea and it is not controlled, you can quickly become dehydrated.	If diarrhea is a problem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink plenty of fluids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts. • Avoid high fibre foods as outlined in <i>Food Ideas to Help Manage Diarrhea</i>.* Tell your healthcare team if you have diarrhea for more than 24 hours.
Constipation may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise if you can. • Drink plenty of fluids. • Try ideas in <i>Food Choices to Manage Constipation</i>.*
Headache may sometimes occur.	Take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours if needed, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day.
Muscle, back, or joint pain may sometimes occur.	You may take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day. Tell your healthcare team if the pain interferes with your activity.
You may sometimes have trouble sleeping .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to your healthcare team if you continue to have trouble sleeping. • This will return to normal when you stop treatment with brentuximab vedotin.
Loss of appetite and weight loss may occur with brentuximab vedotin.	Try the ideas in <i>Food Ideas to Help with Decreased Appetite</i> .
Tiredness and lack of energy may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you are feeling tired. • Try the ideas in <i>Fatigue/Tiredness – Patient Handout</i>.*
Hair loss sometimes occurs with brentuximab vedotin. Hair will grow back once you stop treatment with brentuximab vedotin. Colour and texture may change.	If hair loss is a problem, refer <i>Resources for Hair Loss and Appearance Changes – Patient Handout</i> .*

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p>Numbness or tingling of the fingers or toes commonly occurs. This should slowly return to normal once your treatments are over. This may take several months.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be careful when handling items that are sharp, hot, or cold. • Be careful when walking on uneven surfaces or doing activities that need you to balance or be steady. <p>Tell your healthcare team at your next visit if you have trouble with buttons, writing, picking up small objects, walking, or have fallen.</p>

***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 **infection** such as fever (over 38°C or 100°F 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.
- Signs of **bleeding problems** such as black, tarry stools; blood in urine; pinpoint red spots on skin; extensive bruising.
- Signs of an **allergic reaction** soon after a treatment including chills, nausea, rash, itching, swelling, or breathing problems.
- Signs of **heart or lung problems** such as fast or uneven heartbeat, chest pain, chest pressure, shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing, or swelling of feet or lower legs.
- Changes in **eyesight, speech, or mood; memory loss or problems thinking; trouble walking or decreased strength or weakness on one side.**

CHECK WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE TEAM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (DURING OFFICE HOURS) IF YOU HAVE:

- Signs of **anemia** such as unusual tiredness or weakness.
- **Numbness or tingling** in feet or hands.
- Severe **abdominal pain.**

CHECK WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE TEAM IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONTINUE OR BOTHER YOU:

- Uncontrolled nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, or diarrhea.
- Headache not controlled with acetaminophen (e.g., **TYLENOL®**).
- Skin rash or itching.
- Dizziness.

