



Provincial Health Services Authority

For the Patient: Epcoritamab

Other names: EPKINLY®

- **Epcoritamab** (ep koh rih tah mab) is a drug that is used to treat some types of cancer. It is 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.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to epcoritamab before receiving epcoritamab.
- 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 epcoritamab. 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 epcoritamab.
- Epcoritamab may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with epcoritamab and for 4 months after your treatment has ended. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breastfeed during treatment and for 4 months after your treatment has ended.
- Epcoritamab may affect your ability to **drive** a car or **operate machinery**. Use caution with any activity that requires mental alertness.
- **Tell** your healthcare team that you are being treated with epcoritamab before you receive other subcutaneous injections.
- **Tell** your doctor, dentist, and other health professionals that you are being treated with epcoritamab before you receive any treatment from them.

Some serious side effects involving your immune system or your nervous system can occur during your treatment with epcoritamab, especially when you are receiving the **first few doses**. It is important to report these side effects **immediately** to your healthcare team.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p>At the start of treatment, when your immune system is activated, cytokine release syndrome (CRS) can occur. This usually only occurs with the first few doses of epcoritamab. Symptoms can worsen quickly.</p>	<p>To help prevent CRS, you will be given epcoritamab in small doses to start and then your dose will be increased slowly to the full treatment dose.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For more information, see handout <i>For the Patient: Management of CRS and ICANS</i>.* • Tell your nurse if you have any of the following symptoms while you are receiving epcoritamab: fever, chills, dizziness, shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, fast heartbeat, unusual tiredness, headache, or muscle/joint pain. • Call your healthcare team immediately if you have these symptoms after you leave the clinic. <p>Do not drive or operate machinery if you have symptoms of CRS.</p>
<p>Nervous system problems (known as Immune Effector Cell-Associated Neurotoxicity Syndrome or ICANS) can sometimes occur. Symptoms usually occur with the first few doses of epcoritamab, but can sometimes occur several weeks after you start epcoritamab.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For more information, see handout <i>For the Patient: Management of CRS and ICANS</i>.* • Call your healthcare team immediately if you have these symptoms: tremors or muscle spasms, trouble walking, writing, or speaking, headache, feeling nervous or confused, hearing loss, or double vision. <p>Do not drive or operate machinery if you have symptoms of ICANS.</p>

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

Changes in blood counts

Epcoritamab 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.

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. Refer to specific protocol handout (if available) for more details.**

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Redness, swelling, rash, pain or tenderness may occur where the needle was placed.	Apply cool compresses or soak in cool water for 15-20 minutes several times a day. Tell your healthcare team if swelling and pain continue for more than 24 hours.
Nausea and vomiting may occur. Most people have little or no nausea. If you are vomiting and it is not controlled, you can quickly become dehydrated.	Tell your healthcare team if nausea or vomiting continues for more than 24 hours.
Fever and chills may sometimes occur.	Report this to your healthcare team immediately .
Headache may sometimes occur.	
Muscle or joint pain may sometimes occur.	
Diarrhea may sometimes occur. If you have diarrhea and it is not controlled, you can quickly become dehydrated.	Tell your healthcare team if you have diarrhea for more than 24 hours.
You may sometimes have trouble sleeping .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell your healthcare team if you continue to have trouble sleeping.
Skin rash and itching may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If itching is very irritating, call your healthcare team. Otherwise, be sure to mention it at your next visit.
Loss of appetite sometimes occurs.	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 does not occur with epcoritamab.	

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

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

- Signs of **cytokine release syndrome** and have more than one of these symptoms: fever, chills, dizziness, shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, **fast** heartbeat, unusual tiredness, headache, or muscle/joint pain.
- Signs of **nervous system problems (ICANS)** such as tremors or muscle spasms, having trouble walking, writing, or speaking, headache, feeling anxious (nervous) or confused, having trouble thinking, hearing loss, or changes in eyesight such as double vision.
- Signs of **tumour lysis syndrome** such as more than one of these symptoms: abdominal pain/nausea/vomiting, dark or cloudy urine, moodiness, restlessness, confusion, shortness of breath, irregular heartbeat, unusual tiredness, fever/chills, seizure or muscle/joint pain.
- 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 **heart or lung problems** such as fast or uneven heartbeat, chest pain, chest pressure, shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing, swelling of feet or lower legs, or fainting.
- Signs of **liver problems** such as yellow eyes or skin, white or clay-coloured stools.

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

- Signs of **anemia** such as unusual tiredness or weakness.
- Signs of **kidney problems** such as lower back or side pain, swelling of feet or lower legs.

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

- Swelling of hands, feet, or lower legs.
- Easy bruising or minor bleeding.
- Constipation.

REPORT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS TO YOUR HEALTHCARE TEAM
