



Provincial Health Services Authority

For the Patient: Atezolizumab
Other names: **TECENTRIQ®**

- **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 into a vein.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to atezolizumab before receiving atezolizumab.
- 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.
- 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** doctors, dentists, and other health professionals that you are being treated with atezolizumab before you receive any treatment from them.

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 doctor. Do not manage side effects at home without speaking with your doctor. 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
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.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p>Allergic reactions 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 oncologist immediately if this happens after you leave the clinic.</p>
<p>Your white blood cells may decrease after your treatment. 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 doctor immediately at the first sign of an infection such as fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer), chills, cough, or burning when you pass urine.
<p>Diarrhea may sometimes occur.</p>	<p>See your doctor or get emergency help.</p>
<p>Constipation may sometimes occur.</p>	<p>See or call your doctor as soon as possible.</p>
<p>Nausea and vomiting may occur. Most people have little or no nausea.</p>	
<p>Headache may sometimes occur.</p>	
<p>Skin rashes may sometimes occur.</p>	
<p>Swelling of hands, feet, or lower legs may sometimes occur if your body retains extra fluid.</p>	
<p>Muscle or joint pain may sometimes occur.</p>	<p>You may take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day or ibuprofen (e.g., ADVIL®) for mild to moderate pain. Tell your doctor if the pain interferes with your activity or does not go away.</p>
<p>Sugar control may be affected in patients with diabetes.</p>	<p>Check your blood sugar regularly if you have diabetes. Tell your doctor if your blood sugars are not controlled.</p>
<p>Loss of appetite sometimes occurs.</p>	<p>Try the ideas in <i>Food Ideas to Help with Decreased Appetite</i>.*</p>
<p>Tiredness and lack of energy may sometimes occur.</p>	<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> or <i>Your Bank to Energy Savings: Helping People with Cancer Handle Fatigue</i>.*

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Hair loss 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 chemotherapy nurse or pharmacist for a copy.

SEE YOUR DOCTOR 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.

SEE YOUR DOCTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (DURING OFFICE HOURS) IF YOU HAVE:

- Signs of **anemia** such as unusual tiredness or weakness.
- Easy **bruising** or minor **bleeding**.
- **Numbness or tingling** in feet or hands.
- Skin **rash, blisters**, or itching.
- Signs of **thyroid problems** such as unusual weight gain or loss, feeling hot or cold, deepened voice, or unusual tiredness or weakness.

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

- Headache not controlled with acetaminophen (e.g., **TYLENOL®**) or headache that will not go away.
- Redness, swelling, pain, or sores on your lips, tongue, mouth, or throat.
- Loss of appetite or weight loss.
- Irritability or forgetfulness.
- Decreased sex drive.

REPORT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS TO YOUR DOCTOR