



BC Cancer Agency
CARE + RESEARCH
An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

For the Patient: Blinatumomab
Other names: **BLINCYTO®**

- **Blinatumomab** (blin" a toom' oh mab) is a drug that is used to treat some types of cancer. It is a monoclonal antibody, a type of protein designed to target and interfere with the growth of 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 blinatumomab before receiving blinatumomab.
- **Blood tests** may be taken regularly during treatment. The dose and timing of your treatment may be changed based on the test results and/or other side effects.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of blinatumomab.
- Blinatumomab may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with blinatumomab and for at least 48 hours 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 48 hours after the last dose.
- **Tell** doctors, dentists, and other health professionals that you are being treated with blinatumomab before you receive any treatment from them.

Changes in blood counts

Blinatumomab may cause temporary changes in your blood counts. Your doctor will be following these changes carefully by performing 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 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.

BLOOD COUNTS	MANAGEMENT
<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. Tips to help manage the side effects are included.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p>Allergic reactions may sometimes occur. Signs of an allergic reaction may include flushing, rash, itching, dizziness, swelling, or breathing problems.</p> <p>These reactions can occur immediately or several hours after starting the blinatumomab infusion. Reactions usually occur with the start of the first and second cycles.</p>	<p>Tell your nurse if this happens while you are receiving blinatumomab or contact your doctor immediately if this happens after you leave the clinic.</p>
<p>Nausea and vomiting may occur with treatment. Most people have little or no nausea.</p>	<p>You may be given a prescription for antinausea drug(s) to take during your treatment. 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>Food Choices to Help Control Nausea</i>.*
<p>Skin rashes may sometimes occur.</p>	<p>If rash is very irritating, call your doctor. Otherwise, be sure to mention it at your next visit.</p>

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Fever and chills commonly occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours if needed, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day. • If you have a fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer) plus another sign of infection, report this to your doctor immediately. Other signs of infection include cough, or burning when you pass urine.
Diarrhea may sometimes occur.	<p>If diarrhea is a problem:</p> <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>.*
Constipation may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise if you can. • Drink plenty of fluids. • Try ideas in <i>Suggestions for Dealing with 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.
Pain (muscle, joint, back, or bone) may sometimes occur.	You may take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day for mild to moderate pain. Tell your doctor if the pain interferes with your activity.
Sugar control may sometimes be affected in diabetics.	Check your blood sugar regularly if you are diabetic.
Swelling of hands, feet, or lower legs may sometimes occur if your body retains extra fluid.	<p>If swelling is a problem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevate your feet when sitting. • Avoid tight clothing.
You may sometimes have trouble sleeping .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to your doctor if you continue to have trouble sleeping. • This will return to normal when you stop blinatumomab.
You may sometimes feel dizzy or confused or have tremors .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you feel dizzy or shaky. • Contact your doctor as soon as possible if you feel confused or have problems thinking or speaking.
Loss of appetite may sometimes occur.	Try the ideas in <i>Food Ideas to Help with Decreased Appetite</i> .*

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
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>Your Bank to Energy Savings: Helping People with Cancer Handle Fatigue</i>.*
Hair loss does not occur with blinatumomab.	

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

SEE YOUR DOCTOR OR GET EMERGENCY HELP IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE:

- 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.
- Signs of an **allergic reaction** soon after a treatment including dizziness, fast heart beat, face swelling, or breathing problems.
- **Seizures** or **loss of consciousness**.
- 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 **bleeding problems** such as black, tarry stools; blood in urine; pinpoint red spots on the skin; extensive bruising.
- Sudden and severe **stomach pain**.

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

- Signs of **anemia** such as unusual tiredness or weakness.
- Signs of **liver problems** such as yellow eyes or skin, white or clay-coloured stools.
- **Numbness or tingling** in feet or hands.
- Signs of **gout** such as joint pain.
- **Changes in eyesight** such as blurred vision.
- **Confusion, anxiety**, problems in **thinking** or **speaking**.
- **Tremors** or **muscle spasms**.
- **Trouble walking**, clumsiness, or problems with balance.

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

- Headache not controlled with acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®).
- Easy bruising or minor bleeding.
- Skin rash or itching.
- For diabetics: uncontrolled blood sugars.

