



Provincial Health Services Authority

For the Patient: Durvalumab

Other names: IMFINZI®

- **Durvalumab** (dur val' 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 durvalumab before receiving durvalumab.
- 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 durvalumab. 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 durvalumab.
- Durvalumab may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with durvalumab and for at least three 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 three months after the last dose.
- **Tell** doctors, dentists, and other health professionals that you are being treated with durvalumab 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, dizziness, fever, chills, swelling, breathing problems, or back or neck pain.</p> <p>This can occur immediately or several hours after receiving durvalumab.</p>	<p>Tell your nurse if this happens while you are receiving durvalumab 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>Immediately 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>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 sometimes be affected in diabetic patients.</p>	<p>Check your blood sugar regularly if you are diabetic. 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>

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>Fatigue/Tiredness – Patient Handout</i> or <i>Your Bank to Energy Savings: Helping People with Cancer Handle Fatigue</i>.*
Hair loss does not occur with durvalumab.	

*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, rash, itching, dizziness, fever, chills, face swelling, breathing problems, or back or neck pain.
- 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, or swelling of feet or lower legs.
- 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**.
- 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.
- Irritability or forgetfulness.
- decreased sex drive.

