



Provincial Health Services Authority

**For the Patient: Inotuzumab ozogamicin**  
Other names: BESPONSA®

- **Inotuzumab ozogamicin** (in" oh tooz' ue mab oh" zoe ga mye' sin) 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 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 inotuzumab ozogamicin before receiving inotuzumab ozogamicin.
- 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 inotuzumab ozogamicin. 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 inotuzumab ozogamicin.
- Inotuzumab ozogamicin may affect **fertility** in men and women. If you plan to have children, discuss this with your doctor before being treated with inotuzumab ozogamicin.
- Inotuzumab ozogamicin may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with inotuzumab ozogamicin. Check with your doctor for the amount of time you should continue using birth control after your treatment has ended. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breastfeed during treatment and for at least two months afterwards.
- **Tell** doctors, dentists, and other health professionals that you are being treated with inotuzumab ozogamicin before you receive any treatment from them.

### Changes in blood counts

Inotuzumab ozogamicin 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. <b>When they are low, you are at greater risk of having an infection.</b></p>	<p>To help prevent infection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wash your hands often and always after using the bathroom.</li> <li>• Avoid crowds and people who are sick.</li> <li>• Call your doctor <b>immediately</b> 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.</li> </ul>
<p>Normal platelets help your blood to clot normally after an injury (e.g., cut). <b>When the platelet count is low, you may be more likely to bruise or bleed.</b></p>	<p>To help prevent bleeding problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try not to bruise, cut, or burn yourself.</li> <li>• Clean your nose by blowing gently. Do not pick your nose.</li> <li>• Avoid constipation.</li> <li>• Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush as your gums may bleed more easily.</li> </ul> <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"> <li>• Do not stop taking any medication that has been prescribed by your doctor (e.g., <b>ASA for your heart</b>).</li> <li>• For minor pain, try acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®).</li> </ul>

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><b>Allergic reactions</b> may rarely occur. Signs of an allergic reaction may include fever, chills, rash, or breathing problems.</p> <p>This can occur immediately or a few hours after receiving inotuzumab ozogamicin and usually only with the first dose.</p>	<p>Tell your nurse if this happens while you are receiving inotuzumab ozogamicin or contact your hematologist <b>immediately</b> if this happens after you leave the clinic.</p>
<p><b>Pain or tenderness</b> 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>

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p><b>Nausea</b> and <b>vomiting</b> may occur after your treatment. Most people have little or no nausea.</p>	<p>You may be given a prescription for anti-nausea drug(s) to take before your treatment and/or at home. <b>It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred</b>, so follow directions closely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids.</li> <li>• Eat and drink often in small amounts.</li> </ul> <p>Try the ideas in <i>Practical Tips to Manage Nausea</i>.*</p>
<p>Minor bleeding, such as <b>nosebleeds</b>, may sometimes occur.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sit up straight and tip your head slightly forward. Tilting your head back may cause blood to run down your throat.</li> <li>• Pinch your nostrils shut between your thumb and forefinger or apply firm pressure against the bleeding nostril for 10 full minutes.</li> <li>• After 10 minutes, check to see if your nose is still bleeding. If it is, hold it for 10 more minutes.</li> <li>• Stay quiet for a few hours and do not blow your nose for at least 12 hours after the bleeding has stopped.</li> <li>• Get emergency help if a nosebleed lasts longer than 20 minutes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Diarrhea</b> may sometimes occur.</p>	<p>If diarrhea is a problem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids.</li> <li>• Eat and drink often in small amounts.</li> <li>• Avoid high fibre foods as outlined in <i>Food Choices to Help Manage Diarrhea</i>.* </li></ul>
<p><b>Constipation</b> may sometimes occur.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exercise if you can.</li> <li>• Drink plenty of fluids.</li> <li>• Try ideas in <i>Food Choices to Manage Constipation</i>.*</li> </ul>

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<b>Sore mouth</b> may sometimes occur a few days after treatment. Mouth sores can occur on the tongue, the sides of the mouth, or in the throat. <b>Mouth sores or bleeding gums can lead to an infection.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brush your teeth gently after eating and at bedtime with a very soft toothbrush. If your gums bleed, use gauze instead of a brush. Use baking soda instead of toothpaste.</li> <li>• Make a mouthwash with ½ teaspoon baking soda or salt in 1 cup warm water and rinse several times a day.</li> <li>• Try the ideas in <i>Food Ideas to Try with a Sore Mouth</i>.*</li> </ul>
<b>Headache</b> may sometimes occur.	Take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours if needed, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day.
You may sometimes have <b>trouble sleeping</b> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk to your doctor if you continue to have trouble sleeping.</li> <li>• This will return to normal when you stop taking inotuzumab ozogamicin.</li> </ul>
<b>Loss of appetite</b> sometimes occurs.	Try the ideas in <i>Food Ideas to Help with Decreased Appetite</i> .*
<b>Tiredness</b> and lack of energy may sometimes occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you are feeling tired.</li> <li>• Try the ideas in <i>Fatigue/Tiredness – Patient Handout</i> or <i>Your Bank to Energy Savings: Helping People with Cancer Handle Fatigue</i>.*</li> </ul>
<b>Hair loss</b> does not occur with inotuzumab ozogamicin.	

\*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 **bleeding problems** such as black, tarry stools; blood in urine; pinpoint red spots on skin; extensive bruising.
- Signs of an **allergic reaction** (rare) soon after a treatment including fever, chills, rash, or breathing problems.
- Signs of **heart or lung problems** such as fast or uneven heartbeat, dizziness, 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.
- Sudden **weight gain, abdominal pain** or **swelling**.

