



Provincial Health Services Authority

**For the Patient: Isatuximab**  
Other names: SARCLISA®

- **Isatuximab** (eye" sa tux' i 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 isatuximab before receiving isatuximab.
- A **blood test** may be taken before each treatment. The timing of your treatment may be changed based on the test results and/or other side effects.
- Other drugs may **interact** with isatuximab. 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 isatuximab.
- Isatuximab may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with isatuximab and for at least 5 months after treatment has ended. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breastfeed during treatment.
- **Tell** doctors, dentists, and other health professionals that you are being treated with isatuximab before you receive any treatment from them.

### Changes in blood counts

Isatuximab 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 <b>38°C or 100°F</b> by an oral thermometer), chills, cough, or burning when you pass urine.</li> </ul>

BLOOD COUNTS	MANAGEMENT
<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®) first, but occasional use of ibuprofen may be acceptable.</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 sometimes occur. Signs of an allergic reaction may include cough, chills, nausea, or breathing problems.</p> <p>This can occur immediately or several hours after receiving isatuximab and usually only with the first dose.</p>	<p>Tell your nurse if this happens while you are receiving isatuximab or contact your oncologist <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>
<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. <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> <li>• Try the ideas in <i>Practical Tips to Manage Nausea</i>.* </li></ul>

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<b>Tiredness</b> and lack of energy may commonly occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not drive a car or operate machinery if you are feeling tired.</li> </ul> Try the ideas in <i>Fatigue/Tiredness – Patient Handout</i> . <sup>*</sup>
<b>Diarrhea</b> may sometimes occur.	If diarrhea is a problem: <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>.<sup>*</sup></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.
<b>Sugar control</b> may rarely be affected in patients with diabetes.	Check your blood sugar regularly if you are diabetic.
<b>Swelling</b> of hands, feet, or lower legs may sometimes occur if your body retains extra fluid.	If swelling is a problem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elevate your feet when sitting.</li> <li>Avoid tight clothing.</li> </ul>
<b>Loss of appetite</b> may sometimes occur.	Try the ideas in <i>Food Ideas to Help with Decreased Appetite</i> . <sup>*</sup>
<b>Hair loss</b> does not occur with isatuximab.	

**\*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** soon after a treatment including dizziness, fast heart beat, or breathing problems.
- Signs of **heart problems** such as fast or uneven heartbeat.
- Signs of **lung problems** such as sudden shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing, chest pain, chest pressure, or fainting.

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

- Signs of **anemia** such as unusual tiredness or weakness.
- Signs of **skin changes** such as a new wart, a sore or reddish bump that bleeds or does not heal, or a change in size, shape, or colour of a mole.

