



Provincial Health Services Authority

**For the Patient: Polatuzumab vedotin**

Other names: POLIVY®

- **Polatuzumab vedotin** (pol" a tooz' ue mab ve doe' tin) 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 polatuzumab vedotin before receiving polatuzumab vedotin.
- 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 polatuzumab vedotin. 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 polatuzumab vedotin.
- Polatuzumab vedotin may affect **fertility** in men. If you plan to have children, discuss this with your doctor before being treated with polatuzumab vedotin.
- Polatuzumab vedotin may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with polatuzumab vedotin. Ask your doctor how long 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 3 months after your treatment has ended.
- **Tell** doctors, dentists, and other health professionals that you are being treated with polatuzumab vedotin before you receive any treatment from them.

**Changes in blood counts**

Polatuzumab vedotin 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 38°C or 100°F 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®) 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 occur. Signs of an allergic reaction may include flushing, rash, itching, dizziness, swelling or breathing problems.</p> <p>This can occur immediately or several hours after receiving polatuzumab vedotin.</p>	<p>Tell your nurse if this happens while you are receiving polatuzumab vedotin 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>

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<b>Fever and chills</b> may sometimes occur.	Fever (over 38°C or 100°F by an oral thermometer) may be a sign of an infection. Report this to your doctor <b>immediately</b> .
<b>Nausea</b> and <b>vomiting</b> may occur after your treatment. Most people have little or no nausea.	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. <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>
<b>Numbness or tingling of the fingers or toes</b> may sometimes occur. This will slowly return to normal once your treatments are over. This may take several months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be careful when handling items that are sharp, hot, or cold.</li> </ul> Tell your doctor at your next visit, especially if you have trouble with buttons, writing, or picking up small objects.
<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>.*</li> </ul>
<b>Constipation</b> may sometimes occur.	<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>
<b>Loss of appetite</b> and <b>weight loss</b> may sometimes occur.	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>.*</li> </ul>
<b>Hair loss</b> does not occur with polatuzumab vedotin.	

**\*Please ask your 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 dizziness, fast heartbeat, face swelling, or breathing problems.
- Signs of an **infection** such as fever (over 38°C or 100°F 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 **heart or lung problems** such as fast heartbeat, chest pain, chest pressure, shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing.
- Changes in **eyesight, speech, or mood; memory loss or problems thinking; trouble walking or decreased strength or weakness on one side.**

**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.
- Signs of **kidney problems** such as lower back or side pain, swelling of feet or lower legs.

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

- Headache.
- Skin rash or itching.
- Stomach upset, indigestion, or abdominal pain.
- Redness, swelling, pain, or sores on your lips, tongue, mouth, or throat.
- Muscle or joint pain or weakness.
- Changes in taste.
- Trouble sleeping.
- Feelings of anxiety (nervousness) that are not normal for you.

**REPORT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS TO YOUR DOCTOR**

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