



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

For the Patient: Siltuximab
Other names: SYLVANT®

- **Siltuximab** (sil tux' i mab) is a drug that is used to treat some types of cancer and some diseases that may be similar to cancer. It is a monoclonal antibody, a type of protein designed to target and interfere with the growth of certain 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 siltuximab before receiving siltuximab.
- 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 siltuximab. 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 siltuximab.
- Siltuximab may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with siltuximab and for 3 months after your last dose. 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 siltuximab before you receive any treatment from them.

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
Allergic reactions may rarely occur. Signs of an allergic reaction may include flushing, rash, itching, dizziness, swelling, or breathing problems.	Tell your nurse if this happens while you are receiving siltuximab or contact your oncologist immediately if this happens after you leave the clinic.
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>Nausea and vomiting may occur after your treatment. Most people have little or no nausea.</p>	<p>You may be given a prescription for antinausea drug(s) to take before 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 rash, dryness, or itchiness may sometimes occur.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If itching is very irritating, call your doctor. Otherwise be sure to mention it at your next visit.
<p>Diarrhea may sometimes occur.</p>	<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>.*
<p>Constipation may sometimes occur.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise if you can. • Drink plenty of fluids. • Try ideas in <i>Suggestions for Dealing with Constipation</i>.*
<p>Your white blood cells may decrease after your treatment. They usually return to normal after your last 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.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p>Your platelets may decrease after your treatment. They usually return to normal after your last treatment. Platelets help to make your blood clot when you hurt yourself. You may bruise or bleed more easily than usual.</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. Maintain good oral hygiene. <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, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day, but occasional use of ibuprofen may be acceptable.
<p>Headache and/or joint pain may sometimes occur.</p>	<p>You may take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours if needed, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day. Tell your doctor if the pain interferes with your activity.</p>
<p>Swelling of hands, feet, or lower legs may sometimes occur if your body retains extra fluid.</p>	<p>If swelling is a problem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevate your feet when sitting. • Avoid tight clothing.
<p>Tiredness and lack of energy may sometimes occur.</p>	<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>.*
<p>Increase in cholesterol or triglycerides (one of the types of fat in the blood) may sometimes occur.</p>	<p>Discuss this with your doctor if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A history of heart disease. • High blood pressure. • High cholesterol or triglycerides. <p>You may need to have your cholesterol level checked after starting siltuximab.</p>
<p>Hair loss does not occur with siltuximab.</p>	

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

