

General Information for Patients Ipilimumab

Date : *June 14th, 2013*

Revision : *June 2017*

Medication	Administration
Ipilimumab	Intravenous infusion over 90 minutes
<i>Cycle repeated every 3 weeks for 4 doses</i>	

Warning

This fact sheet aims to let you know the side effects most commonly seen following the administration of your treatment. Please note that when you take any medication, there is a possibility that it causes rare side effects and it is difficult to predict which patients will be affected.

General Information associated with your treatment

- › Ipilimumab is used to prevent the multiplication of abnormal cells and destroy them.
- › A **blood test** will be done before every treatment. Depending on the results and side effects, the dose of the medication might be adjusted or the treatment might be delayed.
- › You may experience **fatigue** during your treatments. This is usually only temporary and may be related to different reasons (medication, stress, the disease). Maintain a good level of activity but rest when you feel the need to.
- › Your **appetite may diminish**. Eat more often, in smaller quantities.
- › Your **sense of taste may be altered**. Enhance foods with fines herbes or lemon juice. Eating fruits, chewing non-sugared gums, etc., may mask the metallic taste.
- › **Alcohol** (in small quantities) is permitted and will not affect the efficacy of the treatments.
- › You can have an **active sexual** life during your treatments. Your partner will not be exposed to, nor harmed by chemotherapy effects. However, a decrease in your sexual drive may occur during this period. This may also be influenced by different factors (fatigue, stress etc.)
- › The effect of the drug on **male or female fertility** is unknown. This medication may have an effect on the menstrual cycle as well as spermatozoid production. However, this does not prevent erection or sexual activity and as such, you can have an active sexual life during your treatments. Pregnancy is possible and this medication could be harmful to the fetus. The use of an effective method of contraception is highly recommended for both men and women while on treatment. Breast-feeding is contra-indicated during treatment.
- › Consult your doctor or pharmacist before you take other medications (even over the counter medications available without a prescription) or natural products. These may provoke an interaction with your treatment and diminish its efficacy or increase side effects.
- › Follow the instructions given by your cancer center about the right way to handle and dispose of body fluids (for example urine, stools) in order to protect the environment and your relatives.
- › Be sure to always have at hand the complete list of your medications, dietary supplements, vitamins and other natural health products. Give it to you doctor and your pharmacist. It is important to make them aware of any change.

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Adverse effects	Management
Rarely, slight nausea may occur the same day or the day following your treatment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› As deemed necessary, you may be prescribed medication to be taken prior to treatment for the prevention of nausea. You may also be prescribed medication to be taken at home as needed.› Contact a member of your healthcare team if you have nausea that bothers you.
<hr/> <p>Usually there is no hair loss with this treatment.</p> <hr/>	
You may experience diarrhea during your treatment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Drink lots of liquids (unless otherwise instructed by your doctor).› Please contact a member of your healthcare team if you have significant diarrhea (more than 3 loose stools per day) for more than 24 hours.› If you have severe diarrhea (more than 6 loose stools per day) along with abdominal pain and mucus or blood in stools, contact a member of your healthcare team immediately or go to Emergency Department.
Your skin rash may occur sometime after starting your treatment and may be associated with itchiness. Your skin may become drier . Redness and itchiness may develop. Your skin may become more sensitive to the sun .	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Apply a fragrance-free moisturizing cream as needed.› Avoid exposure to the sun.› Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen (SPF of 30 or more).› Wear a hat.› If these symptoms occur and bother you, consult a member of your healthcare team who will suggest appropriate measures.› If these symptoms are severe, either associated with blisters or your skin peeling, contact immediately a member of your healthcare team or go to Emergency Department.

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Adverse effects	Management
You may experience constipation .	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Exercise if possible.› Drink lots of fluids (at least 8 glasses a day unless otherwise advised by your doctor).› Communicate with a member of your healthcare team who, if necessary, will prescribe the appropriate laxatives.
You may experience numbness or tingling of the hands and feet and unusual weakness of your legs, arms or face .	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› If these symptoms occur, contact immediately a member of your healthcare team.
Inflammation of body glands (for example: thyroid, adrenal) may occur and could decrease the production of hormones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Pay attention to the following symptoms: fatigue or muscle weakness, unusual or persisting headaches, dizziness or loss of consciousness, behavioural changes, abdominal pain and decreased blood pressure.› If these symptoms occur, contact immediately a member of your healthcare team.

You will find an alert card on the following page. Cut and fold it and wear it on yourself to show to all your healthcare professionals.

Pharmacist: _____

Phone: _____

From _____ AM to _____ PM (Monday to Friday)



Always keep this card on you
Show it to all healthcare professionals
taking care of you

**IMMEDIATELY CONTACT A MEMBER OF YOUR HEALTHCARE
TEAM OR GO TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM IF YOU HAVE ONE
OF THE FOLLOWING SIGNS:**

- Diarrhea: more than 6 loose stools per day, with mucus or blood and abdominal pain
- Cough or persistent fever
- Sudden difficulty breathing
- Redness or itchiness on more than a third (30%) of your body
- Any other unusual or new health problem

**WARNING: THIS PATIENT IS CURRENTLY ON
IMMUNOTHERAPY**

(name of medication)

**Risk of rare immune-mediated adverse reactions that can
be severe and need rapid management, ex.:**

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| - Colitis | - Nephritis | - Encephalopathies |
| - Pneumonitis | - Rheumatic symptoms | - Uveitis |
| - Dermatitis | - Endocrinopathies | - Pancreatitis |
| - Hepatitis | - Neuropathies | - Others |

More information at:

<https://www.geoq.info/fr/pub/immunotherapie/lignes-directrices>