MSK Kids

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Onasemnogene Abeparvovec

This information from Lexicomp® explains what you need to know about this medication, including what it's used for, how to take it, its side effects, and when to call your healthcare provider.

### Brand Names: US

Zolgensma

### Brand Names: Canada

Zolgensma

### Warning

- Liver problems have happened with this drug. Some liver problems have been deadly. The risk of liver problems may be higher if your child already has liver problems. Your child will need to have liver function checked as you have been told by your child's doctor.

## What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat spinal muscular atrophy.

## What do I need to tell the doctor BEFORE my child takes this drug?

- If your child is allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell the doctor about the allergy and what signs your child had.
- If your child has an infection.
- If your child is dehydrated or has poor nutrition.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

Tell the doctor and pharmacist about all of your child's drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe to give this drug with all of your child's other drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug your child takes without checking with the doctor.

## What are some things I need to know or do while my child takes this drug?

- Tell all of your child’s health care providers that your child is taking this drug. This includes your child’s doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Have your child’s blood work and other lab tests checked as you have been told by the doctor.
- Make sure your child is up to date with all vaccines before treatment with this drug.
- This drug is used with a steroid drug like prednisolone. Talk with your child’s doctor before your child gets any vaccines.
- Infections (like colds, flu, or bronchiolitis) before or after infusion of this drug could lead to a more serious problem. Caregivers and close contacts need to do things that prevent infections. These include washing hands often, taking care when coughing or sneezing, and limiting contacts). Call the doctor right away if your child has signs of one of these infections like coughing, wheezing, sneezing, runny nose, sore throat, or fever.
- Take special care when handling and throwing away the patient’s stools. Throw diapers away in household trash sealed in trash bags. Be sure to wash your

hands well if coming into contact with stools. Do this for 1 month after your child gets this drug. If you have questions, talk with your child’s doctor.

## What are some side effects that I need to call my child’s doctor about right away?

**WARNING/CAUTION:** Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your child’s doctor or get medical help right away if your child has any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Signs of liver problems like dark urine, tiredness, decreased appetite, upset stomach or stomach pain, light-colored stools, throwing up, or yellow skin or eyes.
- Fast, slow, or abnormal heartbeat.
- Shortness of breath, a big weight gain, or swelling in the arms or legs.

- Blue or gray skin color.
- Fast breathing.
- A severe health problem called thrombotic microangiopathy (TMA) has happened with this drug. Usually, this happened within the first 2 weeks after infusion of this drug. TMA can be life-threatening or deadly. Call the doctor right away if your child has signs like feeling very tired or weak; any unexplained bruising or bleeding; seizures; change in the amount of urine passed; or signs of high blood pressure like severe headache or dizziness, passing out, or change in eyesight.

**What are some other side effects of this drug?**

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your child’s doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother your child or do not go away:

- Throwing up.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your child’s doctor. Call your child’s doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

## How is this drug best given?

Give this drug as ordered by your child’s doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

- It is given as an infusion into a vein over a period of time.

## What do I do if my child misses a dose?

- Call your child’s doctor to find out what to do.

## How do I store and/or throw out this drug?

- If you need to store this drug at home, talk with your child’s doctor, nurse, or pharmacist about how to store it.

## General drug facts

- If your child’s symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your child’s doctor.
- Do not share your child’s drug with others and do not give anyone else’s drug to your child.
- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.

- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your child’s doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

## Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer

This generalized information is a limited summary of diagnosis, treatment, and/or medication information. It is not meant to be comprehensive and should be used as a tool to help the user understand and/or assess potential diagnostic and treatment options. It does NOT include all information about conditions, treatments, medications, side effects, or risks that may apply to a specific patient. It is not intended to be medical advice or a substitute for the medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment of a health care provider based on the health

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If you have any questions, contact a member of your care team directly. If you're a patient at MSK and you need to reach a provider after 5 p.m., during the weekend, or on a holiday, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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