



## PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Crovalimab

This information from UpToDate® Lexidrug™ 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

Piasky

## Brand Names: Canada

Piasky

## Warning

- This drug raises the risk of severe meningococcal infections. Life-threatening and deadly meningococcal infections have happened in people treated with this type of drug. This type of infection can become life-threatening or deadly very fast and can be deadly if not treated early. You will need to get a meningococcal vaccine at least 2 weeks before starting this drug unless your doctor tells you otherwise. If you have had a meningococcal vaccine before, you may need to get another one. Talk with your doctor if you have questions.
- Meningococcal vaccines lower the risk of meningococcal infections but do not prevent all meningococcal infections from happening. Call your doctor right away if you have signs of a meningococcal infection like headache with upset stomach or throwing up, fever, or stiff neck or back; confusion; fever with or without a rash or fast heartbeat; body aches with flu-like signs; or if light bothers your eyes.

## What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat a blood disease called paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH).

## What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?

- If you are allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.
- If you did not get a meningococcal vaccine.
- If you have a meningococcal infection.
- If you are being or have been treated with another drug like this one. If you are not sure, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- If you are breast-feeding. Do not breast-feed while you take this drug and for 9 months after your last dose.

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

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

## What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- This drug may raise the risk of other severe infections. This includes infections caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, and *Haemophilus influenzae*. Vaccines can help lower the risk of some of these infections. Talk with the doctor if you have questions.

- Wash hands often. Stay away from people with infections, colds, or flu.
- Make sure you are up to date with all your vaccines before treatment with this drug.
- Have a patient safety card with you at all times and for 11 months after the last dose.
- Have your blood work and other lab tests checked as you have been told by your doctor.
- Some health problems may happen after this drug is stopped. You will need to be watched closely for several weeks to months after you stop this drug. Follow up with your doctor. Call your doctor right away if you have a change in how much urine is passed; dark urine; swelling, warmth, or pain in the leg or arm; chest pain or pressure; coughing up blood; trouble breathing or swallowing; any unexplained bruising or bleeding; seizures; stomach pain; severe dizziness; or passing out. Call your doctor right away if you feel confused, very tired or weak, or have weakness on 1 side of the body, trouble speaking or thinking, change in balance, drooping on 1 side of the face, or change in eyesight. Call your doctor right away if you are not able to get or keep an erection.
- If your weight changes, talk with your doctor. The dose of this drug may need to be changed.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan on getting pregnant. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks of using this drug while you are pregnant.

## **What are some side effects that I need to call my 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 doctor or get medical help right away if you have 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 infection like fever, chills, very bad sore throat, ear or sinus pain, cough, more sputum or change in color of sputum, pain with passing urine, mouth sores, or wound that will not heal.
- Chest pain.
- Dizziness or passing out.
- Swelling.
- Any unexplained bruising or bleeding.
- Immune system reactions may happen when switching to this drug after treatment with a similar drug or when switching from this drug to a similar drug. These reactions can be severe. If you switch drugs, your doctor will watch you closely for 30 days after switching. Call your doctor right away if you have joint, muscle, or bone pain; rash or other skin problems; itching; fever, headache; numbness or tingling, especially in the hands or feet; stomach pain; or signs of kidney problems like trouble passing urine, blood in the urine, or a big weight gain. Call your doctor right away if you feel weak, tired, or have less energy.

## **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 doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

- Pain, redness, or other reaction where this drug was given; headache; or muscle pain during or after infusion or injection.
- Signs of a common cold.
- Diarrhea.
- Upset stomach.

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

effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-332-1088. You may also report side effects at <https://www.fda.gov/medwatch>.

## How is this drug best taken?

Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

- It may be given as an injection into the fatty part of the skin or as an infusion into a vein over a period of time.

## What do I do if I miss a dose?

- Call your 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 doctor, nurse, or pharmacist about how to store it.

## General drug facts

- If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.
- Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else's drugs.
- 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 doctor, nurse, pharmacist,

or other health care provider.

- This drug comes with an extra patient fact sheet called a Medication Guide. Read it with care. Read it again each time this drug is refilled. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with the doctor, 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 care provider's examination and assessment of a patient's specific and unique circumstances. Patients must speak with a health care provider for complete information about their health, medical questions, and treatment options, including any risks or benefits regarding use of medications. This information does not endorse any treatments or medications as safe, effective, or approved for treating a specific patient. UpToDate, Inc. and its affiliates disclaim any warranty or liability relating to this information or the use thereof. The use of this information is governed by the Terms of Use, available at <https://www.wolterskluwer.com/en/know/clinical-effectiveness-terms>.

## Last Reviewed Date

2024-06-28

## Copyright

© 2026 UpToDate, Inc. and its affiliates and/or licensors. All rights reserved.

If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit [www.mskcc.org/pe](http://www.mskcc.org/pe) to search our virtual library.

---

Crovalimab - Last updated on July 1, 2024

All rights owned and reserved by Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center