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## PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Evolocumab

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

Repatha; Repatha Pushtronex System [DSC]; Repatha SureClick

## Brand Names: Canada

Repatha

## What is this drug used for?

- It is used to lower cholesterol.
- It is used in some people to lower the chance of heart attack, stroke, some heart procedures, and certain other heart problems.

## 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.

This drug may interact with other drugs or health problems.

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?

## All products:

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Have your blood work and other lab tests checked as you have been told by your doctor.
- Follow the diet plan that your doctor told you about.
- High blood sugar has happened with this drug. This includes diabetes that is new or worse.
- If you have a latex allergy, talk with your doctor. Some products have latex.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan on getting pregnant, or are breast-feeding. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks to you and the baby.

## Infusor:

- If you are having an MRI, talk with your doctor.
- If you will be traveling to a high altitude (over 11,483 feet or 3,500 meters), talk with your doctor.

# 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 high blood sugar like confusion, feeling sleepy, unusual thirst or hunger, passing urine more often, flushing, fast breathing, or breath that smells like fruit.

## 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:

- Nose or throat irritation.
- Flu-like signs.
- Signs of a common cold.
- Back pain.
- Bruising, redness, or other irritation where the injection is given.
- Headache.

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.

### All products:

- It is given into the fatty part of the skin on the top of the thigh, belly area, or upper arm.
- If you will be using this drug at home, your doctor or nurse will teach you

how to use it.

- Wash your hands before and after use.
- Do not open until you are ready to use.
- Do not give into skin that is irritated, tender, bruised, red, scaly, hard, scarred, or has stretch marks.
- Move the site where you give this drug as you were told by the doctor.
- Do not give into the same place as another shot.
- Do not shake.
- If stored in a refrigerator, let this drug come to room temperature before using it. Be sure you know how long to leave it at room temperature before using. Do not heat this drug.
- Do not use this drug if it has been dropped or if it is broken.
- Do not use if the solution is cloudy, leaking, or has particles.
- This drug is colorless to a faint yellow. Do not use if the solution changes color.
- Do not give into skin within 2 inches (5 cm) of the belly button.
- Throw away after using. Do not use the device more than 1 time.
- Throw away needles in a needle/sharp disposal box. Do not reuse needles or other items. When the box is full, follow all local rules for getting rid of it. Talk with a doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions.

## Prefilled syringes and auto-injectors:

- The injection may take up to 15 seconds to finish.

## Infusor:

- Use this drug within 5 minutes after putting the cartridge in the on-body injector. The drug will dry out and will not work if you wait longer than 5 minutes. Do not push the start button until the on-body injector is ready to use and is placed on the skin. This button can only be pushed 1 time.

- Do not get the device wet.
- Do not give into a mole, scar, or bruise.
- Do not put on skin with a lot of hair.
- The injection may take up to 5 minutes to finish.
- Keep electronic devices like cell phones at least 12 inches away from this product until the injection is done.
- Call the doctor right away if you think that the device may not have worked the right way. Call the doctor right away if the On-body Injector comes off before or during a dose, if it is leaking, or if the sticky part is wet. Call the doctor right away if the light on the On-body Injector flashes red.

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

### **If you take this drug every 2 weeks:**

- Take a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it has been more than 7 days since the missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.

### **If you take this drug every month:**

- Take a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it has been more than 7 days since the missed dose, take a missed dose and start a new schedule based on when the dose is given.

### **For all uses of this drug:**

- Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.
- If you are not sure what to do if you miss a dose, call your doctor.

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

- Store in a refrigerator. Do not freeze.
- Do not use if it has been frozen.

- Store in the original container to protect from light.
- If needed, you may store at room temperature for up to 30 days. Write down the date you take this drug out of the refrigerator. If stored at room temperature and not used within 30 days, throw this drug away.
- Protect from heat. Do not store in a vehicle's glove box or trunk.
- 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.

## 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.
- 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.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. Check with your pharmacist. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your 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 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>.

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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.

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