Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Lecanemab

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

Leqembi; Leqembi Iqlik; Leqembi Iqlik (500 MG Dose)

Brand Names: Canada

Leqembi

Warning

- Brain scan changes and swelling in the brain called ARIA (amyloid related imaging abnormalities) can happen with this drug. Most of the time, people do not have symptoms and this goes back to normal over time. Some people may have bleeding in or on the brain or seizures, which can be severe or deadly. The symptoms of ARIA may look like the symptoms of a stroke. Call your doctor right away if you have a headache, dizziness, upset stomach, change in eyesight, seizures, trouble walking or speaking, muscle weakness, or feel confused.
- Some patients have a genetic risk factor that causes a raised chance of ARIA. Your doctor may test you to see if you have this risk factor. Talk with your doctor about this information.

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat Alzheimer's disease.

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?

- 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.
- You will need to have MRI scans as you have been told by your doctor.
- 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.

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:

All products:

- 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.
- Weakness on 1 side of the body, trouble speaking or thinking, change in balance, drooping on one side of the face, or blurred eyesight.

Auto-injectors:

- Headache, fever, or tiredness.

Vials:

- Infusion reactions are common with this drug. Sometimes, these can be severe. Infusion reactions include fever; flu-like signs like chills, aches, shaking, or joint pain; upset stomach or throwing up; signs of high or low blood pressure like dizziness or passing out, headache, or change in eyesight; abnormal or pounding heartbeat; or trouble breathing. Tell your doctor right away if you have any of these signs or other effects during the infusion.

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:

All products:

- Cough.
- Diarrhea.

Auto-injectors:

- Bruising, itching, pain, redness, swelling, or other reaction where the injection was given.

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.

Auto-injectors:

- It is given as a shot into the fatty part of the skin on the top of the thigh or the belly area.
- This drug may be given into the outer area of the upper arm if given by someone else.
- If you will be giving yourself the shot, your doctor or nurse will teach you how to give the shot.
- Wash your hands before and after use.
- If stored in a refrigerator, let this drug come to room temperature before using it. Leave it at room temperature for 20 minutes. Do not heat this drug.
- Do not shake.
- This drug is clear and colorless to yellow. Do not use if the solution changes color.
- Do not use if the solution is cloudy, leaking, or has particles.
- Do not remove the cap until you are ready to use.

- Move the site where you give the shot with each shot. Inject at least 1 inch (2.5 cm) away from where the last dose was given.
- Do not give into skin within 2 inches (5 cm) of the belly button.
- Do not give into a mole, scar, birthmark, or rash. Do not give into skin that is red, tattooed, irritated, burned, tender, bruised, hard, or damaged.
- Do not inject through clothes.
- Each auto-injector is for 1 use only.
- Do not use the injector if it has been dropped or if it is broken.
- 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.

Vials:

- It is given as an infusion into a vein over a period of time.
- Other drugs may be given to help with infusion side effects.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

Auto-injectors:

- If you miss a dose of this drug, take a missed dose as soon as you think about it within 6 days after the missed dose and go back to your normal time.
- If it has been more than 6 days since the missed dose, call your doctor to find out what to do.

Vials:

- Call your doctor to find out what to do.

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

Auto-injectors:

- Store in a refrigerator. Do not freeze.
- Store in the outer carton to protect from light.
- If needed, you may store at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C) for up to 14 days. Write down the date you take this drug out of the refrigerator. If stored at room temperature and not used within 14 days, throw this drug away.
- Do not put this drug back in the refrigerator after it has been stored at room temperature.

Vials:

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

All products:

- 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.
- 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.

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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 to search our virtual library.

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