Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Pemivibart

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

Pemgarda

Warning

- Allergic reactions have happened with this drug. Rarely, severe and sometimes life-threatening allergic reactions have happened. You will be watched closely while getting this drug and for at least 2 hours after your dose.

What is this drug used for?

- It is used in certain people to prevent COVID-19.

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 (including polysorbate); or any other drugs, foods, or substances (including a COVID-19 vaccine or polyethylene glycol). Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.
- If you have COVID-19 or you have been around someone who has COVID-19. This drug is not used in these cases.
- If you have had a COVID-19 vaccine in the past 2 weeks.

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.
- Allergic reactions and infusion reactions have happened more than 24 hours after getting this drug.
- This drug is not to be taken in place of a COVID-19 vaccine. Follow what the doctor has told you to do.
- After getting the vaccine, continue to do things that prevent the spread of COVID-19 as recommended by local public health officials. These include washing hands often, wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet away from other people, and avoiding crowds.
- Viruses can change over time. This drug may not help protect against all forms of the COVID-19 virus. Tell your doctor right away if you start to have signs of COVID-19 like fever or chills; cough; shortness of breath or other breathing problems; feeling tired or weak; muscle or body aches; headache; taste or smell changes; sore throat; runny or stuffy nose; or diarrhea, upset stomach, or throwing up.
- 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:

- 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 during or after the infusion like fast, slow, or abnormal heartbeat; dizziness or passing out; headache; upset stomach; fever or chills; chest pain; sweating; flushing; muscle pain; feeling confused, tired, or weak; swelling of the hands or feet; throat irritation; or ringing in the ears. These may be other signs of an allergic reaction or infusion reaction.

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:

- Signs of a common cold.
- Flu-like signs.

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 is given 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?

- This drug will be given in a healthcare setting. You will not store it at home.

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.
- 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.

Additional Information

Fact sheets for patients, parents, and caregivers are available to give information to properly inform the adult receiving the drug or, in the case of a minor, the child's parent or legal representative about the risks and benefits of the drug. The provider is required to give a copy of the fact sheet.

https://www.fda.gov/media/177069/download?attachment

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

2025-03-04

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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.

Pemivibart - Last updated on March 31, 2024

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