Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Ranibizumab

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

Byooviz; Cimerli; Lucentis; Nufymco; Susvimo (Implant 1st Fill) [DSC]; Susvimo (Implant Refill)

Brand Names: Canada

Lucentis; Melvizo; Ranopto

Warning

All products:

- A certain type of eye infection (endophthalmitis) has happened with this drug. The risk is higher with the implant form of this drug compared with the eye injection form. This type of eye infection can lead to long-lasting eye damage and blindness. Call your doctor right away if you have more eye pain, loss of eyesight, if lights bother your eyes, or red eyes.

Eye implant:

- Certain other eye problems have happened with this drug. Some problems may need to be treated with surgery. Call your doctor right away if it feels like something is in your eye, or if you have eye discharge or watery eyes.

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat macular degeneration.
- It is used to treat macular edema.
- It is used to treat some eye problems caused by diabetes.
- It is used to treat some blood vessel problems in the eyes.
- It may be given to you for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

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 have an infection in or around the eye or inflammation in the eye.

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?

All products:

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Use care when driving or doing other tasks that call for clear eyesight.
- Have an eye exam as you have been told by your doctor.
- This drug may affect fertility. Fertility problems may lead to not being able to get pregnant or father a child. If you plan to get pregnant or father a

child, talk with your doctor before taking this drug.

- You may need to use birth control to prevent pregnancy while you take this drug and for some time after your last dose. Talk with your doctor to see if you need to use birth control.
- 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.

Eye implant:

- Avoid driving and doing other tasks or actions that call for clear eyesight until the eye shield is removed and you can see.
- Eyesight may not be as sharp or clear for at least 2 months after this drug is put in.
- When the implant is in place, try to avoid rubbing or touching the area of the eye where the implant was placed as much as you can. If you need to touch your eye, be sure your hands are clean.
- If you will be having any eye test or eye procedure, tell the doctor about this drug.
- If you are having an MRI, 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:

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.

- Change in eyesight, eye pain, or severe eye irritation.
- Eyelid swelling.
- Bleeding in the eye.
- Cataracts have happened with this drug.
- Rarely, severe eye problems (vitreous or retinal detachment) have happened with this drug. Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you start to see flashing lights, floaters, a curtain-like shadow coming across your eye, or have sudden eyesight loss.

Eye injection:

- Eye discharge.
- Feeling very tired or weak.
- The chance of heart attack or stroke due to blood clots may be raised. Call your doctor right away if you have signs of heart attack like chest pain that may spread to the arms, neck, jaw, back, or stomach; abnormal sweating; or feeling sick or throwing up. Call your doctor right away if you have signs of stroke like weakness on 1 side of the body; eyesight, speech, or balance problems; drooping on 1 side of the face; feeling confused; or severe headache.

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:

- Dry eyes.
- Seeing floaters.

Eye injection:

- Feeling that something is in the eye.
- More tears.
- Nose or throat irritation.
- 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.

Eye injection:

- It is given as a shot into the eye.

Eye implant:

- It is put in as an implant in the eye.
- After getting the implant, keep your head above shoulder level for the rest of the day. Sleep with your head on 3 or more pillows during the day and night after surgery.
- Wear the eye shield and use your eye drops after getting the implant as your doctor has told you to. After getting the implant, do not push on the eye, rub the eye, or touch the area of the eye where the implant was placed for 30 days. Do not take part in difficult or tiring activities for 1 month after getting the implant unless your doctor has told you otherwise.

- After getting a refill, do not push on the eye, rub the eye, or touch the area of the eye where the implant was placed for 7 days. Use your eyedrops as you have been told by your doctor.
- If you have the implant taken out, follow your doctor's instructions closely.

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.
- 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.

Last Reviewed Date

2026-10-22

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 to search our virtual library.

Ranibizumab - Last updated on December 12, 2022
All rights owned and reserved by Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center