PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Teplizumab

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

Tzield

Brand Names: Canada

Tzield

Warning

- If you have had a cytomegalovirus (CMV) or Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) infection, talk with your doctor. These infections have become active again while taking this drug. This can be severe or life-threatening. The risk of these infections may be higher in people who have a weak immune system, including those with Down syndrome. Most severe cases happened in people who kept taking this drug while having very low white blood cell levels for a long time. Severe cases have also happened in adults with other health problems like adrenal gland disease or heart disease.
- You will be tested for CMV and EBV before starting this drug. This drug may not be right for people with these infections. Have blood tests as you have been told. Take this drug exactly as you have been told by your doctor. You will be watched for signs of infection while taking this drug and for at least 2 months after your last dose. If you have any signs of infections, call your doctor right away.

What is this drug used for?

- It is used in people with stage 2 type 1 diabetes to delay stage 3 type 1 diabetes.
- It is used in children with stage 3 type 1 diabetes to delay the loss of the body's ability to make insulin.

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 type 2 diabetes. Do not use this drug to treat type 2 diabetes.
- If your diabetes is not caused by an autoimmune disease.
- If you have any of these health problems: Low white blood cell count, low platelet count, or low red blood cell count.
- If you have liver disease or raised liver enzymes.
- If you have an infection. This includes an Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) or cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection.
- If you are 45 or older.
- If you are pregnant or plan to get pregnant within the next month. Do not take this drug if you are pregnant or

if you are planning to get pregnant within the next month.

- If you are breast-feeding. Do not breast-feed while you take this drug and for 20 days 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.
- Have your blood work and other lab tests checked as you have been told by your doctor.
- Make sure you are up to date with all your vaccines before treatment with this drug.
- Talk with your doctor if you have recently had a vaccine or are planning to get a vaccine. Some vaccines need to

be avoided for some time before, during, and after treatment with this drug.

- You may have a higher risk of getting an infection during treatment with this drug and for some time after. The risk may last longer in adults. Wash hands often. Stay away from people with infections, colds, or flu.
- This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if you take it while you are pregnant. If you are pregnant or you get pregnant while taking this drug, call your doctor right away.

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.

- Swollen gland.
- Feeling very tired or weak.
- Any unexplained bruising or bleeding.
- Swelling, warmth, or redness of the skin.
- Severe dizziness or passing out.
- A severe health problem called cytokine release syndrome (CRS) has happened with this drug. Most of the time, this happened during the first 5 days of treatment. Call your doctor right away if you have tiredness, fever, headache, upset stomach, muscle or joint pain, dark urine, or yellow skin or eyes.

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:

- Headache.
- Diarrhea, stomach pain, upset stomach, or throwing up.
- Nose or throat irritation.

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.
- Other drugs may be given with this drug to help avoid side effects.

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

2026-07-02

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.

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