PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Blinatumomab

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

Blincyto

## Brand Names: Canada

Blincyto

## Warning

- A severe and sometimes deadly health problem called cytokine release syndrome (CRS) has happened in people getting this drug. Call the doctor right away if your child has chills, dizziness, feeling tired or weak, fever, headache, passing out, rash, swelling of the face, trouble breathing, upset stomach or throwing up, or wheezing.
- Nerve problems have happened in people getting this drug. Sometimes, these nerve problems have been deadly. Call the doctor right away if your child has confusion, headache, loss of balance, passing out, seizures, speech problems like slurred speech, or trouble sleeping. Call your child's doctor right away if your child has trouble with face movements, hearing, eyesight, or swallowing.

## What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat a type of leukemia.

## What do I need to tell the doctor BEFORE my child takes this drug?

## For all uses of this drug:

- If your child is allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell the doctor about the allergy and what signs your child had.

## If your child is breast-feeding a baby:

- Be sure your child does not breast-feed a baby for at least 48 hours after getting this drug.

## Children:

- If the patient is a child who weighs less than 11.9 lb (5.4 kg). Certain infusions of this drug must not be given to children who weigh less than 11.9 lb (5.4 kg).

This drug may interact with other drugs or health problems.

Tell the doctor and pharmacist about all of your child's drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe to give this drug with all of your child's other drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug your child takes without checking with the doctor.

## What are some things I need to know or do while my child takes this drug?

## All products:

- Tell all of your child's health care providers that your child is taking this drug. This includes your child's doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Have your child avoid tasks or actions that call for alertness while taking this drug. These include things like riding a bike, playing sports, or using items such as scissors, lawnmowers, electric scooters, toy cars, or motorized vehicles. Talk with the doctor.
- Your child may have more chance of getting an infection. Some infections have been deadly. Have your child wash hands often. Have your child stay away from people with infections, colds, or flu.
- Talk with the doctor before your child gets any vaccines. Some types of vaccines must not be given for at least 2 weeks before starting this drug, during treatment, and for some time after the last dose.
- Be sure to keep the area around where this drug goes into the body clean. This will help lower the chance of infection. Talk with the doctor.
- Follow what the doctor tells you about how to use the pump closely. Do not change the settings on the pump.

If there is a problem with the pump or if an alarm sounds, call the doctor or nurse right away.

- Have your child's blood work and other lab tests checked as you have been told by the doctor.
- Infusion reactions have happened with this drug. Tell the doctor if your child has any bad effects during or within 48 hours after the infusion.
- If the patient is a child, use this drug with care. The risk of some side effects may be higher in children.
- If your child is of childbearing age, a pregnancy test will need to be done before starting this drug to make sure your child is not pregnant.

**If your child is or may be sexually active:**

- This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if your child takes it during pregnancy.
- If your child may become pregnant, have your child use birth control while taking this drug and for 48 hours after the last dose. If your child gets pregnant, call the doctor right away.

**Children:**

- Some fluids used to mix this drug have benzyl alcohol. If possible, avoid products with benzyl alcohol in

newborns or infants. Serious side effects can happen in these children with some doses of benzyl alcohol, including if given with other drugs that have benzyl alcohol. Talk with the doctor to see which fluids have benzyl alcohol.

## What are some side effects that I need to call my child's 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 child's doctor or get medical help right away if your child has 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.
- Signs of high or low blood pressure like very bad headache or dizziness, passing out, or change in

eyesight.

- Signs of depression, suicidal thoughts, emotional ups and downs, abnormal thinking, anxiety, or lack of interest in life.
- Chest pain or pressure.
- A heartbeat that does not feel normal.
- Shortness of breath.
- Swelling.
- Shakiness.
- Any unexplained bruising or bleeding.
- Feeling very tired or weak.
- Swollen gland.
- Memory problems or loss.
- Feeling very sleepy.
- Flushing.
- Dark urine or yellow skin or eyes.
- Patients with cancer who take this drug may be at greater risk of getting a severe health problem called tumor lysis syndrome (TLS). This may lead to death. Call your child's doctor right away if your child has a fast or abnormal heartbeat; any passing out; trouble passing urine; muscle weakness or cramps; upset stomach,

throwing up, diarrhea, or not able to eat; or feels sluggish.

- Severe and sometimes deadly pancreas problems (pancreatitis) have happened with this drug. This could happen at any time during treatment. Call the doctor right away if your child has signs of pancreatitis like very bad stomach pain, very bad back pain, or very upset stomach or throwing up.

## 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 child's doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother your child or do not go away:

- Pain in arms or legs.
- Back, bone, joint, or muscle pain.
- Weight gain.
- Headache.
- Upset stomach.
- Diarrhea.
- Mouth irritation or mouth sores.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you

have questions about side effects, call your child's doctor. Call your child's doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

## How is this drug best given?

Give this drug as ordered by your child's 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 will be given with this drug to help avoid side effects.

## What do I do if my child misses a dose?

- Call your child's doctor to find out what to do.

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

- Most of the time, this drug will be given in a hospital or doctor's office. If stored at home, follow how to store as you were told by the doctor.
- If you get this drug in a special package at home, do not open the package. The package will be opened by the doctor.
- Do not throw away any of this drug in the trash. Follow all local rules for getting rid of it. Talk with a doctor or

pharmacist if you have any questions.

## General drug facts

- If your child's symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your child's doctor.
- Do not share your child's drug with others and do not give anyone else's drug to your child.
- 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.
- 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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