PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Ocrelizumab

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

Ocrevus

Brand Names: Canada

Ocrevus

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat MS (multiple sclerosis).

What do I need to tell the doctor BEFORE my child takes 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 has had a life-threatening reaction while getting this drug or within 24 hours after getting it.
- If your child has an infection.
- If your child has active hepatitis B infection.
- If your child is younger than 10 years of age or weighs less than 55 pounds (25 kg).

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

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?

- 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's blood work and other lab tests checked as you have been told by the doctor.
- If your child has had hepatitis B before or carries the virus, this drug can cause the virus to become active. This can lead to severe and sometimes deadly liver problems. Your child will be tested for hepatitis B before starting this drug. Talk with the doctor.
- Talk with the doctor before getting your child any vaccines. Use of some vaccines with this drug may either raise the chance of an infection or make the vaccine not work as well.
- Make sure your child is up to date with all vaccines before treatment with this drug. Talk with your child's doctor to find out when your child needs to get any vaccines before starting this drug.
- Your child may have more chance of getting an infection. Some infections have been severe or deadly. Have your child wash hands often. Have your child stay away from people with infections, colds, or flu.
- This drug may lower the number of a type of antibody (immunoglobulin) in your child's blood. Low levels of these antibodies may raise the risk of severe infections. Blood tests will be done before your child starts this drug and during treatment to check the level of these antibodies.
- Drugs like this one may make some viruses from tick or mosquito bites more likely to be severe or deadly. Take care to prevent tick and mosquito bites. Have your child use insect repellant and wear loose-fitting, long-sleeved

shirts and pants when outdoors. Check your child's body, clothing, gear, and pets for ticks once back inside. Ask the doctor for more ways to prevent tick and mosquito bites. Tell the doctor right away if your child has signs of infection like headaches, fever, body aches, weakness, loss of balance, confusion, or rash where a bite happened.

- This drug may add to the chance of getting some types of cancer. Talk with the doctor.
- Be sure your child has regular breast exams. The doctor will tell you how often your child will need to have these. Your child will also need to do breast self-exams as the doctor has told you. Talk with the doctor.

If your child is or may be sexually active:

- If your child may become pregnant, have your child use birth control while taking this drug and for 6 months after the last dose. If your child gets pregnant, call the doctor right away.
- If your child used this drug while pregnant, tell the baby's doctor.

If your child is breast-feeding a baby:

- Tell the doctor if your child is breast-feeding a baby. You will need to talk about any risks to the baby.

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 skin infection like oozing, heat, swelling, redness, or pain.
- Signs of herpes infections like cold sores, shingles, genital sores, severe headache, confusion, change in eyesight, eye redness, or eye pain.
- Stiff neck.
- Depression or other mood changes.
- A lump in the breast or breast soreness.
- Swelling in the arms or legs.
- Reactions have happened during the infusion and within 24 hours after the infusion. Sometimes, infusion reactions have been life-threatening. Tell the doctor right away if your child has rash, hives, itching, fever, fast heartbeat, shortness of breath or trouble breathing, dizziness or passing out, upset stomach, throat irritation or pain, headache, feeling tired, swelling of the throat, coughing or wheezing, or flushing during or within 24 hours after the infusion.
- A bowel problem (colitis) has happened with this drug. Sometimes, this has been severe, leading to treatment in a hospital or surgery. Call the doctor right away if your child has diarrhea; black, tarry, or bloody stools; mucus in the stools; or severe stomach pain.
- A severe brain problem called progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) may happen with this drug. It may cause disability or death. Tell the doctor right away if your child has signs like confusion, memory problems, depression, change in the way your child acts, change in strength on 1 side is greater than the other, trouble speaking or thinking, change in balance, or change in eyesight.
- Liver problems have happened with this drug. They have also been seen months after this drug was stopped. Tell the doctor right away if your child has signs of liver problems like dark urine, tiredness, decreased appetite, upset stomach or stomach pain, light-colored stools, throwing up, 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 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:

- Signs of a common cold.
- Nose or throat irritation.
- Back pain.
- Diarrhea.

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 may be given to help with infusion 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?

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

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 child's 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.

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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

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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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