

Anti-thymocyte globulin (equine) (Atgam)

About This Medicine

Anti-thymocyte globulin (equine) is used to treat aplastic anemia and is also used in the transplant setting. It is given in the vein (IV).

Possible Side Effects

- Decrease in the number of white blood cells and platelets. This may raise your risk of infection and bleeding.
- Fever and chills
- Pain in the joints
- Rash

Note: Each of the side effects above was reported in greater than 10% of patients treated with anti-thymocyte globulin (equine). All possible side effects are not included. Your side effects may be different depending on your cancer diagnosis, condition, or if you are receiving other medicines in combination. Please discuss any concerns or questions with your medical team.

Warnings and Precautions

- Allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, which can be life-threatening, are rare but may happen in some patients. Signs of allergic reaction to this medicine may be swelling of the face, feeling like your tongue or throat are swelling, trouble breathing, rash, itching, fever, chills, feeling dizzy, and/or feeling that your heart is beating in a fast or not normal way. **If this happens, do not take another dose of this medicine. You should get urgent medical treatment.**
- Serum sickness- an immune reaction which can sometimes happen after your infusion. Signs may be fever, chills, rash and/or pain in the joints.
- Cytokine release syndrome (CRS), which can be life-threatening. Some types of cancer medicines can cause CRS because of the effects of the medicine in your body. If this happens you may feel very sick and get a fever, headache, nausea, or feel weak. You may also have changes to your blood pressure. Because of this, your blood pressure and pulse may be checked while you are getting this medicine.
- While you are getting this medicine in your vein (IV), you may have a reaction to the medicine. Sometimes you may be given medicine to stop or lessen these side effects. Your nurse will check you closely for these signs: fever or shaking chills, flushing, facial swelling, feeling dizzy, headache, trouble breathing, rash, itching, chest tightness, or chest pain. These reactions may happen after your infusion. **If this happens, call 911 for emergency care.**

- Severe decrease in white blood cells and/or platelets
- Risk of severe and life-threatening infections
- Changes in your liver and kidney function
- Anti-thymocyte globulin (equine) is made from horse and human plasma and carries a very rare risk of transmitting infectious diseases.

Note: Some of the side effects above are very rare. If you have concerns and/or questions, please discuss them with your medical team.

Important Information

- Talk to your doctor before receiving any vaccinations during your treatment. Some vaccinations are not recommended while receiving anti-thymocyte globulin (equine).

Treating Side Effects

- Drink enough fluids to keep your urine pale yellow.
- To help decrease the risk of bleeding, use a soft toothbrush. Check with your nurse before using dental floss.
- Be very careful when using knives or tools.
- Use an electric shaver instead of a razor.
- To decrease the risk of infection, wash your hands regularly.
- Avoid close contact with people who have a cold, the flu, or other infections.
- Take your temperature as your doctor or nurse tells you, and whenever you feel like you may have a fever.
- If you get a rash do not put anything on it unless your doctor or nurse says you may. Keep the area around the rash clean and dry. Ask your doctor for medicine if your rash bothers you.
- Keeping your pain under control is important to your well-being. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you are experiencing pain.
- Infusion reactions may occur after your infusion. **If this happens, call 911 for emergency care.**
- Cytokine release syndrome may happen after your infusion. **If this happens, call 911 for emergency care.**

Food and Medicine Interactions

- There are no known interactions of anti-thymocyte globulin (equine) with food.
- This medicine may interact with other medicines. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all the prescription and over-the-counter medicines and dietary supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbs, and others) that you are taking at this time. Also, check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new prescription or over-the-counter medicines, or dietary supplements to make sure that there are no interactions.



When to Call the Doctor

Call your doctor or nurse if you have any of these symptoms and/or any new or unusual symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher
- Chills
- Easy bleeding or bruising
- Decreased or very dark urine
- Signs of possible liver problems: dark urine, pale bowel movements, pain in your abdomen, feeling very tired and weak, unusual itching, or yellowing of the eyes or skin
- New rash and/or itching
- Rash that is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Pain that does not go away, or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Signs of infection: fever or chills, cough, trouble breathing, severe pain in your abdomen, difficulty urinating, burning or pain when you pass urine, redness and/or swelling of the skin
- Signs of cytokine release syndrome such as: fever, chills, or shaking chills, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, have a headache and/or have nausea or throwing up. **If this happens, call 911 for emergency care**
- Signs of infusion reaction: fever or shaking chills, flushing, facial swelling, feeling dizzy, headache, trouble breathing, rash, itching, chest tightness, or chest pain. **If this happens, call 911 for emergency care.**
- Signs of allergic reaction: swelling of the face, feeling like your tongue or throat are swelling, trouble breathing, rash, itching, fever, chills, feeling dizzy, and/or feeling that your heart is beating in a fast or not normal way. **If this happens, call 911 for emergency care.**
- Signs of serum sickness: fever, chills, rash and/or pain in the joints.
- If you think you may be pregnant or may have impregnated your partner

Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** This medicine may have harmful effects on the unborn baby. Women of childbearing potential should use effective methods of birth control during your cancer treatment and for at least 10 weeks after stopping treatment. Men with female partners of childbearing potential should use effective methods of birth control during your cancer treatment and for at least 10 weeks after stopping treatment. Let your doctor know right away if you think you may be pregnant or may have impregnated your partner.
- **Breastfeeding warning:** It is not known if this medicine passes into breast milk. For this reason, women should talk to their doctor about the risks and benefits of breastfeeding during treatment with this medicine because this medicine may enter the breast milk and cause harm to a breastfeeding baby.
- **Fertility warning:** Fertility studies have not been done with this medicine. Talk with your doctor or nurse if you plan to have children. Ask for information on sperm or egg banking.



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