

## Ipilimumab (Yervoy)

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### About This Medicine

Ipilimumab is used to treat cancer. It is given in the vein (IV).

### Possible Side Effects

- Nausea and vomiting (throwing up)
- Diarrhea (loose bowel movements)
- Colitis- inflammation (swelling) in the colon. The symptoms are diarrhea, stomach cramping, and sometimes blood in the bowel movements.
- Tiredness
- Fever
- Decreased appetite (decreased hunger)
- Weight loss
- Headache
- Trouble sleeping
- Rash and itching

**Note:** Each of the side effects above was reported in 5% or greater of patients treated with ipilimumab. 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

- This medicine works with your immune system and can cause inflammation in any of your organs and tissues and can change how they work. This may put you at risk for developing serious medical problems, which can be life-threatening. These side effects may require treatment with steroids at the discretion of your doctor.
- Inflammation of the lungs, which can be life-threatening. You may have a dry cough or trouble breathing.
- Severe colitis, which can be life-threatening
- Changes in your central nervous system can happen. The central nervous system is made up of your brain and spinal cord. You could feel extreme tiredness, agitation, confusion, hallucinations (see or hear things that are not there), trouble understanding or speaking, loss of control of your

bowels or bladder, eyesight changes, numbness, or lack of strength to your arms, legs, face, or body, and coma. **If you start to have any of these symptoms let your doctor know right away.**

- Changes in your liver function, which can cause liver failure and be life-threatening.
- This medicine may affect your hormone glands (especially the thyroid, adrenals, pituitary, and pancreas).
- Blood sugar levels may change, and you may develop diabetes. If you already have diabetes, changes may need to be made to your diabetes medicine.
- Changes in your kidney function
- Inflammation in the tissue of the heart
- Allergic skin reaction, which can be life-threatening. You may develop blisters on your skin that are filled with fluid or a severe red rash all over your body that may be painful.
- 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.**
- Increased risk of serious complications that can be life-threatening such as graft versus host disease (GVHD) in patients who undergo a stem cell transplant before or after receiving ipilimumab.
- Increased risk of organ rejection in patients who have received donor organs

**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

- Cytotoxic medicines leave the body through urine and stool, but they can also be present in other body fluids such as blood, vomit, semen, and vaginal fluids. Take precautions to prevent others from coming in contact with your medicine or your body fluids. Follow safety precautions during your treatment and for as long as directed by your health care provider after your treatment. If you take a cytotoxic pill each day, follow these precautions every day.

## Treating Side Effects

- Manage tiredness by pacing your activities for the day.
- Be sure to include periods of rest between energy-draining activities.
- Get regular exercise, with your doctor's approval. If you feel too tired to exercise vigorously, try taking a short walk.
- 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.
- Drink enough fluids to keep your urine pale yellow.
- If you throw up or have diarrhea, you should drink more fluids so that you do not become dehydrated (lack of water in the body from losing too much fluid).



- To help with nausea and vomiting, eat small, frequent meals instead of three large meals a day. Choose foods and drinks that are at room temperature.
- If you have diarrhea, eat low-fiber foods that are high in protein and calories, and avoid foods that can irritate your digestive tracts or lead to cramping.
- Ask your doctor or nurse about medicine that is available to help stop or lessen diarrhea, and/or nausea.
- To help with decreased appetite, eat small, frequent meals. Eat foods high in calories and protein, such as meat, poultry, fish, dry beans, tofu, eggs, nuts, milk, yogurt, cheese, ice cream, pudding, and nutritional supplements.
- To help with weight loss, drink fluids that contribute calories (whole milk, juice, soft drinks, sweetened beverages, milkshakes, and nutritional supplements) instead of water.
- Consider using sauces and spices to increase taste. Daily exercise, with your doctor's approval, may increase your appetite.
- If you have diabetes, keep good control of your blood sugar level. Tell your nurse or your doctor if your glucose levels are higher or lower than normal.
- Keeping your pain under control is important to your well-being. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you are experiencing pain.
- 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.
- To help with itching, moisturize your skin several times a day.
- Avoid sun exposure and apply sunscreen routinely when outdoors.
- If you have numbness and tingling in your hands and feet, be careful when cooking, walking, and handling sharp objects and hot liquids.
- Infusion reactions may happen after your infusion. **If this happens, call 911 for emergency care.**

## Food and Medicine Interactions

- There are no known interactions of ipilimumab 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

Not all possible side effects are included. Some of these side effects, although rare, can be life-threatening.

### Lung problems:

- Inflammation of the lungs
- Cough
- Trouble breathing



- Upper respiratory tract infection

**Call your doctor or nurse if you have any of these symptoms:**

- Wheezing and/or trouble breathing
- New or worsening cough
- Coughing up yellow, green, or bloody mucus
- Chest pain

**Stomach problems:**

- Decreased appetite
- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Constipation (not able to move bowels)
- Pain in your abdomen
- Inflammation of your colon
- Blood in your stool (bright red, or black/tarry)

**Call your doctor or nurse if you have any of these symptoms:**

- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Throwing up more than 3 times a day
- Lasting loss of appetite or rapid weight loss of five pounds in a week
- Diarrhea, 4 times in one day or diarrhea with lack of strength or a feeling of being dizzy
- No bowel movement in 3 days or when you feel uncomfortable
- Pain in your abdomen that does not go away
- Blood in your stool

**Liver problems:**

- Changes in your liver function

**Call your doctor or nurse if you have any of these symptoms:**

- Yellowing of the eyes or skin
- Dark urine



- Pale bowel movements
- Pain on the right side of your abdomen that does not go away
- Feeling very tired and weak
- Unusual itching
- Easy bleeding or bruising

**Hormone gland problems:**

- Changes in some of your hormone glands (especially the thyroid, adrenals, pituitary and pancreas)
- Blood sugar levels may change, and you may develop diabetes

**Call your doctor or nurse if you have any of these symptoms:**

- Headache that does not go away
- Tiredness that interferes with your daily activities
- Trouble falling or staying asleep
- Feeling dizzy or lightheaded
- Changes in mood or behavior such as irritability and/or feeling forgetful
- Shakiness
- Weight loss or weight gain
- Nausea
- Abnormal blood sugar
- Unusual thirst or passing urine often
- Feeling cold

**Kidney problems:**

- Changes in your kidney function
- Urinary tract infection

**Call your doctor or nurse if you have any of these symptoms:**

- Decreased or very dark urine
- Cloudy urine and/or urine that smells bad
- Difficulty urinating
- Pain or burning when you pass urine
- Feeling like you have to pass urine often, but not much comes out when you do
- Tender or heavy feeling in your lower abdomen



- Pain on one side of your back under your ribs

**Skin problems:**

- Rash and itching
- Soreness of the mouth and throat
- Allergic skin reaction

**Call your doctor or nurse if you have any of these symptoms:**

- New rash and/or itching
- Fluid-filled bumps/blisters
- Rash that is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Red areas, white patches, or sores in your mouth that hurt
- Flu-like symptoms: fever, headache, muscle and joint aches, and tiredness

**Inflammation of the brain:**

- Changes in your brain and spinal cord
- Headache
- Effects on the nerves

**Call your doctor or nurse if you have any of these symptoms:**

- Headache that does not go away
- Extreme tiredness, agitation, or confusion
- Seizures
- Hallucinations
- Trouble understanding or speaking
- Loss of control of bowels or bladder
- Numbness or lack of strength to your arms, legs, face, or body
- Numbness, tingling, pins, and needles, or pain in your arms, hands, legs, or feet

**Other problems:**

- Low red blood cells, and platelets
- Fever



- Inflammation of your eye and/or other changes in vision
- Allergic reaction to the medicine
- Heart problems
- Electrolyte changes
- Muscle, bone, and joint pain

**Call your doctor or nurse if you have any of these symptoms:**

- Fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher
- Chills, flushing
- Easy bleeding or bruising
- Blurred vision or other changes in eyesight
- Sensitivity to light
- Feeling that your heart is beating fast or in a not normal way (palpitations)
- 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.**
- Pain that does not go away, or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Extreme muscle weakness

## Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** This medicine can have harmful effects on the unborn baby. Women of childbearing potential should use effective methods of birth control during your cancer treatment and for 3 months after stopping treatment. Let your doctor know right away if you think you may be pregnant.
- **Breastfeeding warning:** It is not known if this medicine passes into breast milk. For this reason, women should not breastfeed during treatment and for 3 months after stopping treatment because this medicine could 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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