

PEMBROLIZUMAB

pem-bro-lih-zoo-mab

What does it do?

Pembrolizumab is used to treat some cancers, such as certain types of melanoma. It makes your immune system attack the cancer cells.

Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have had a transplant (including a cornea transplant).
- If there is a chance you could get pregnant, use reliable contraception while taking *pembrolizumab* and for up to 4 months after stopping. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.
- *Pembrolizumab* affects your immune system. Tell your doctor if you have had any vaccines in the last 2 months. Check with your doctor before having any vaccines while using it, and for up to 6 months after stopping.

How is it given?

Pembrolizumab is given as an infusion into a vein.

What if you forget a dose?

Pembrolizumab will be given to you by a health professional. If you are unable to attend an appointment, contact your health professional as soon as possible.

Can you take other medicines?

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

What side effects might you notice?

Side Effects	Recommended action
Reaction during the infusion including: fever, chills, aches and pains Skin rash, skin peeling or blisters Short of breath, persistent dry cough Symptoms of heart inflammation including: fluttering, pounding or pain in your chest, shortness of breath Severe stomach pain, nausea	Tell your doctor immediately
Feeling tired, unexplained weight gain or loss, feeling hotter or colder than normal (may be a thyroid problem) Tingling or numbness Confusion, drowsiness or weakness Eye pain, changes in vision Persistent diarrhoea, abdominal pain Peeing more often, feeling thirsty	Tell your doctor
Pale skin patches, itching Stomach upset	Tell your doctor if troublesome

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

Other information:

- Some side effects can happen after your treatment has finished. Discuss this with your doctor.
- It is important to tell anyone who gives you medical or dental treatment that you are taking *pembrolizumab*.