

# Ocrelizumab: Patient drug information

**Brand Names: US:** Ocrevus

## What is this drug used for?

•It is used to treat MS (multiple sclerosis). Multiple sclerosis is a disease that causes vision problems, numbness and tingling, muscle weakness, and other problems. It happens when the body's infection-fighting system attacks and damages nerve cells and their connections in the brain and spinal cord.

## What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?

- If you are allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.
- If you have an infection.
- If you have active hepatitis B infection.

## What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- If you have had hepatitis B before or carry the virus, this drug can cause the virus to become active. This can lead to very bad and sometimes deadly liver problems. You will be tested for hepatitis B before starting this drug. You will need to watch for signs of hepatitis while taking this drug and for several months after stopping it. Talk with your doctor.
- Talk with your doctor before getting 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 you are up to date with all your vaccines before treatment with this drug. Talk with your doctor to find out when you need to get any vaccines before starting this drug.
- You may have more chance of getting an infection. Wash hands often. Stay away from people with infections, colds, or flu.
- Severe infections caused by certain viruses have happened with this drug. Sometimes, these were life-threatening. If you have questions, talk with the doctor.
- This drug may lower the number of a type of antibody (immunoglobulin) in your blood. Low levels of these antibodies may raise the risk of severe infections. Blood

tests will be done before you start taking this drug and while you take it to check the level of these antibodies.

- This drug may add to the chance of getting some types of cancer. Talk with the doctor.
- Be sure to have regular breast exams. Your doctor will tell you how often to have these. You will also need to do breast self-exams as your doctor has told you. Talk with your doctor.
- If you may become pregnant, you must use birth control while taking this drug and for some time after the last dose. Ask your doctor how long to use birth control. If you get pregnant, call your doctor right away.

### **What are some side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?**

- 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.
- A lump in the breast or breast soreness.
- Swelling in the arms or legs.
- Low mood (depression).
- Reactions have happened during the infusion and within 24 hours after the infusion. Sometimes, infusion reactions have been life-threatening. Tell your doctor right away if you have 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 very bad brain problem called progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) may happen with this drug. It may cause disability or can be deadly. Tell your doctor right away if you have signs like confusion, memory problems, low mood (depression), change in the way you act, change in strength on 1 side is greater than the other, trouble speaking or thinking, change in balance, or change in eyesight.

## **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 doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

- Signs of a common cold.
- Back pain.
- Diarrhea.

## **How is this drug best taken?**

- 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.