

# Omalizumab: Patient drug information

**Brand Names: US:** Xolair

## Warning

•Allergic reactions have happened after this drug was given. Sometimes, this has been life-threatening. Allergic reactions have happened as early as after the first dose. They have also happened after a year of treatment. This drug will be started in a health care setting where you will be watched closely after getting it.

## What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat hives.
- It is used to treat nose polyps.
- It is used to treat asthma. Do not use this drug to treat an asthma attack. Use a rescue inhaler.

## 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 a latex allergy, talk with your doctor. Some products have latex.
- Cases of cancer have happened in some people taking this drug. If you have questions, talk with the doctor.
- Some people at high risk for parasite infections have gotten a parasite infection after taking this drug. Your doctor may test your stool to see if you have a parasite infection.
- It may take a few months to see the full effect.
- If you are switching to this drug from a steroid, do not stop taking the steroid all of a sudden. The dose of the steroid may need to be slowly lowered to avoid side effects.
- Some people using this drug get fever; joint pain, stiffness, or swelling; muscle pain; swollen glands; or rash. This has happened within 1 to 5 days after getting this drug. Call your doctor right away if you have any of these signs.
- Have blood work checked as you have been told by the doctor. Talk with the doctor.
- This drug may affect certain lab tests. Tell all of your health care providers and lab workers that you take this drug.

- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan on getting pregnant, or are breast-feeding. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks to you and the baby.

### **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.
- A burning, numbness, or tingling feeling that is not normal.
- Bone pain.
- Trouble breathing that is new or worse.
- Some people taking this drug have had chest pain, heart attacks, transient ischemic attacks (TIAs), or blood clots. It is not known if this drug caused these problems.

### **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:

- Headache.
- Upset stomach; stomach pain.
- Irritation where the shot is given.
- Feeling tired or weak.
- Nose or throat irritation.
- Signs of a common cold.
- Pain in arms or legs.
- Ear pain.

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

- It is given as a shot into the fatty part of the skin on the top of the thigh, belly area, or upper arm.