



Avelumab (Bavencio®)

("*α-VEL-ue-mab*")

How drug is given: By injection, in a vein (IV)

Purpose: Used to treat certain types of skin cancer and bladder cancer

Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment

- Facial flushing (warmth or redness of the face), itching, or a skin rash could occur. These symptoms are due to an allergic response and should be reported to your cancer care team **right away**.
- You may have nausea, vomiting, and/or loss of appetite. You may be given medicine to help with this.

Things that may occur a few days to weeks later

1. If you develop a new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, or chest pain, tell your cancer care team right away.
2. This drug may cause severe abdominal pain and loose stools or diarrhea within a few days after treatment. Call your cancer team if you experience four or more loose bowel movements in one day or if your stool looks black, tarry, or you notice blood.
3. This drug may cause kidney problems. Your kidneys will be watched closely with blood and urine tests. Watch for changes in the amount of urine and color of your urine.
4. This drug may cause liver problems. Your liver will be watched closely with blood tests. Watch for skin turning yellow, pain on the right side of the abdomen, and increased bleeding or bruising.
5. Your blood cell counts may drop. This is known as bone marrow suppression. This includes a decrease in:
 - Red blood cells, which carry oxygen in your body to help give you energy
 - White blood cells, which fight infection in your body
 - Platelets, which help clot the blood to stop bleeding

If you have a **fever of 100.5°F (38°C) or higher**, chills, a cough, or any bleeding problems, **call your cancer care team right away**.

6. Your body may not be able to get rid of extra fluid. This is called edema. You may notice some swelling in your arms or legs
7. This drug may cause problems with your hormone glands: thyroid, pituitary, and/or adrenal glands. When the hormone glands do not work properly, you may notice these symptoms:
 - a fast heartbeat
 - sweat easily
 - weight gain
 - a cold feeling
 - thinning hair
 - constipation
 - voice changes
 - headache that does not go away
8. If you feel very tired, this is known as fatigue, and it may not improve with long rest periods. You may need to balance activities with short rest periods. Mild to moderate exercise can help maintain your energy. Limit naps to once a day for 30 minutes.
9. Skin changes, such as dryness or a rash on your body, may occur. Ask your cancer care team what lotions or creams you may use. You may feel pain or weakness in your joints or muscles. If this bothers you, ask your cancer care team what type of drugs may help.

Things that may occur after treatment ends (even months to years later)

Fertility and Related Precautions:

- It is very important to use birth control during and for at least 1 month after treatment is complete if you are having sex, because this drug can be harmful to an unborn baby.
- Women should not breastfeed while receiving this drug and for 1 month after treatment is complete.
- If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your cancer care team.

The above information includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects listed in this teaching sheet may not be the same ones you experience. Your side effects may be different, depending on how often you receive treatment (your schedule) and how much you receive each time (your dosage). Side effects may also vary if you are taking other medications. Please speak with your cancer care team if you have questions about possible side effects you may experience. This document should not take the place of conversations with members of your cancer care team.

If you experience any significant change in your health during or after treatment, contact a member of your cancer care team right away.

THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS OR NOTES FOR THE PATIENT AND FAMILY: