



## Obinutuzumab (Gazyva®)

("oh-bi-nue-TOOZ-ue-mab")

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**How drug is given:** by vein (IV)

**Purpose:** To treat cancer cells in chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and other cancers.

### Things that may occur during or within hours of each treatment

1. 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**.
2. Your blood pressure may drop or your heart rate may speed up while you are getting this drug. This usually is related to the infusion and goes back to normal on its own. You may be asked to stop taking blood pressure medications on the day of the infusion (12 hours before, during, and 1 hour after infusion).

### Things that may occur a few days to weeks later

1. Your blood cell counts may drop. This is known as bone marrow suppression. This includes a decrease in your:
  - 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

This may happen 7 to 14 days after the drug is given and then blood counts should return to normal. 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**.

2. If you develop a new or worsening cough or shortness of breath, report this to your cancer care team.
3. Your kidneys could be hurt by this drug and not work as well. Your kidneys will be watched closely with blood and urine tests.

4. You may feel pain or weakness in your joints or muscles. If these bother you, ask your cancer care team what type of drugs you may use to help with this pain.
5. In rare cases, this medicine may destroy a large amount of tumor. When these cancer cells die, they are released into your bloodstream. This can be serious and result in shifts of fluid and minerals, and/or kidney damage or death. This may cause nausea, vomiting, decrease in ability to void, seizures, and changes in heart rate. Your cancer care team will have a specific treatment plan that may include IV fluids and or medicines to help the body clear excess fluids and protect the kidneys.
6. Your liver may be affected by this medicine. On occasion, blood work will be taken to monitor your liver function.
7. Known heart problems may worsen in some people taking this drug. Call your cancer care team and go to the emergency room if you have any of these symptoms: chest pain, shortness of breath, racing heartbeat, blurred or double vision, a very bad headache, or sudden weakness.
8. Patients treated with obinutuzumab can get a very rare brain infection called progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML). This is caused by a virus and can be fatal. If you have a new or sudden change in your thinking, eyesight, balance or strength, **call your cancer care team right away.**
9. If you have had hepatitis B before or carry the virus, this drug can cause the virus to become active. This can lead to severe liver problems. You will be tested for hepatitis B before starting this drug, while on this drug, and for a few months after this drug is stopped.

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

1. Fertility and Related Precautions:
  - It is very important to use birth control if you are having sex because this drug may be harmful to an unborn baby.
  - Men may become sterile and may want to sperm bank prior to beginning this drug.
  - For women, your period (menstrual cycle) may not be regular for a while or may stop completely and you may not be able to get pregnant.
  - Women should not breastfeed while receiving this drug.

*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 about your treatment and side effects you may experience during and after treatment.*

*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: