



## **Olaratumab (Lartruvo®)** (*“oh-lar-AT-ue-mab”*)

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**How drug is given:** by IV

**Purpose:** This drug is a monoclonal antibody used to treat soft tissue sarcomas.

### **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 get a headache. Please talk to your cancer care team about what you can take for this.

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

1. Mild to moderate nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, or abdominal pain may occur. You may be given medicine to help with this.
2. 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.
3. Loose stools or diarrhea may occur within a few days after the drug is started. You may take loperamide (Imodium A-D®) to help control diarrhea. You can buy this at most drug stores. Be sure to also drink more fluids (water, juice, sports drinks). If these do not help within 24 hours, call your cancer care team.
4. Some patients may feel very tired, also known as fatigue. You may need to rest or take naps more often. Mild to moderate exercise can also help you maintain your energy.
5. Some of your hair may fall out with treatment. You may lose hair on your head as well as facial and body hair. Hair may grow back during treatment.
6. You may lose some feeling, or have tingling or burning in your hands and/or feet. This is called peripheral neuropathy. This may increase with continued treatment. Please tell your cancer care team if you have trouble buttoning your clothes. Peripheral neuropathy should get better over time, after the drug is stopped. Take steps to avoid cuts and falls: Be careful when handling sharp objects, use handrails, and wear supportive shoes.

7. You may get mouth sores 7 to 10 days after this drug is given. It is important to keep your mouth clean. A soft-bristle toothbrush should be used for brushing your teeth. You may have a burning feeling and redness inside the mouth or on the lips. Use a **baking soda mouth rinse** 4 or 5 times a day.

**Mouth Rinse Recipe:**

Mix: 1 tsp **salt or baking soda** with 8 oz. glass of **water**

Other mouth rinses may be ordered by your cancer care team. Do not use mouth washes that have alcohol in them because they will dry out the mouth. If you cannot eat or swallow because of this, let your cancer care team know. Check with your cancer care team before having any dental work done.

8. This drug may increase your blood sugar level. Normal blood sugar levels usually return after treatment is stopped. Your cancer care team will monitor this.
9. Important minerals called electrolytes are found in your blood and body fluids. They can be affected by this medicine. Your cancer care team will check your blood work periodically to monitor your potassium, magnesium, and phosphate levels.
10. You may be at increased risk for bleeding. Call your cancer care team if:
- You see blood in your urine or stool
  - You feel dizzy or faint
  - You have a nosebleed that does not stop in 10-15 minutes.
  - If you have a nosebleed, sit with your head tipped slightly forward and use your thumb and forefinger to lightly pinch the soft part of your nose for a full 10 minutes. Applying ice to the bridge of the nose can also help.
11. Your blood cell counts may drop. This is known as bone marrow suppression. This includes a decrease in
- Platelets, which help clot the blood to stop bleeding
  - White blood cells, which fight infection in your body

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**.

## 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 treatment and for 3 months after treatment if you are having sex, because this drug may be harmful to an unborn baby.
- Women should not breastfeed while receiving this drug and for 3 months following the last dose.
- Men can become sterile and may want to think about sperm banking prior to chemotherapy.
- 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: