

Siltuximab (Sylvant®)

The possible benefits of treatment vary; for some people chemotherapy may reduce the risk of the cancer coming back, for others it may control the cancer and its symptoms. Your doctor will explain to you whether you will receive chemotherapy or another type of treatment, or a combination of both. Your doctor or nurse will be happy to answer any questions you have about your treatment. You will find it useful to refer to the booklet 'Chemotherapy, a guide' which gives general information on chemotherapy and side effects.

Your treatment

Siltuximab is prescribed for the treatment of patients with multicentric Castleman's disease (MCD). MCD causes benign (non-cancerous) growths to develop in the lymph nodes in the body.

Siltuximab is given intravenously (into the vein) every 3 weeks, infused over 1 hour.

The amount of siltuximab that you will receive depends on many factors, your general health or other health problems, and the type of cancer or condition being treated. Your doctor will determine your dose and schedule.

This treatment can have serious or possibly life-threatening side effects. It is very important that you report side effects straight away. Don't delay, if you feel unwell, please ring The Christie Hotline on **0161 446 3658**. The lines are open 24 hours a day.

Increased risk of serious infection

You are vulnerable to infection while you are having chemotherapy. Minor infections can become life-threatening in a matter of hours if left untreated. Symptoms of infection include fever, shivering, sweats, sore throat, diarrhoea, discomfort when you pass urine, cough or breathlessness. We recommend that you use a digital thermometer so you can check your temperature. You can buy one from your local chemist.

If your temperature is 37.5°C or above, or below 36°C or you have symptoms of an infection, contact The Christie Hotline straight away.



Possible side effects

Chemotherapy can cause many different side effects. Some are more likely to occur than others. We are all different, so we may get different side effects with varying severity. Most side effects are usually temporary, but in some rare cases they can be life-threatening. It is important to tell your hospital doctor or nurse about any side effects so they can be monitored and, where possible, treated.

Serious and potentially life threatening side effects

In a small proportion of patients chemotherapy can result in very severe side effects which may rarely result in death. The team caring for you will discuss the risk of these side effects with you.

These side effects are less common side effects (occurring in about 1 in 10 to 3 in 10) of patients receiving siltuximab:

- rash
- itching
- upper respiratory tract infection
- swelling
- increased weight
- hyperuricemia (elevated uric acid in blood; may cause kidney problems or gout)

Warning!

Contact your health care provider immediately, day or night, if you should experience any of the following symptoms:

- fever of 38°C or higher, chills
- sudden onset of shortness of breath, accompanied by cough and/or fever
- sudden stomach or bowel pain

The following symptoms require medical attention, but are not an emergency. Contact your health care provider within 24 hours of noticing any of the following:

- diarrhoea (4-6 episodes in a 24-hour period)
- dausea (interferes with ability to eat and unrelieved with prescribed medication)
- vomiting (vomiting more than 4-5 times in a 24 hour period)
- unable to eat or drink for 24 hours or have signs of dehydration; tiredness, thirst, dry mouth, dark and decreased amount of urine, or dizziness
- decreased appetite
- rash or itching
- sudden increase in swelling or weight gain
- cough with or without mucus
- other signs of infection, such as sore throat or pain with urination

Sex, contraception and fertility

Protecting your partner and contraception: We recommend that you or your partner use a barrier form of contraception during sexual intercourse while you are having the course of chemotherapy, and for at least 3 months after the last dose of siltuximab. Chemotherapy is dangerous to unborn babies and this will also protect you and your partner from any chemotherapy drugs that may be present in semen and in the vagina. If you suspect that you may be pregnant please tell your doctor immediately.

Fertility: This chemotherapy may affect your ability to have children. Your doctor or nurse should have discussed this with you. If not, please ask them before you start treatment.

Late side effects

Some side effects may become evident only after a number of years. In reaching any decision with you about treatment, the potential benefit you receive from treatment will be weighed against the risks of serious long term side effects to the heart, lungs, kidneys and bone marrow. With some drugs there is also a small but definite risk of developing another cancer. If any of these problems specifically applies to you, the doctor will discuss these with you and note this on your consent form.

Contacts

If you have any general questions or concerns about your treatment, please contact the haematology and transplant unit.

Haematology nurse specialists - **0161 446 8167**

Haematology and transplant day unit - **0161 446 3924**

General enquiries - **0161 446 3000**

For urgent advice ring The Christie Hotline - **0161 446 3658** (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Your consultant is:

Your hospital number is:

Your key worker is:

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If you need information in a different format, such as easy read, large print, BSL, braille, email, SMS text or other communication support, please tell your ward or clinic nurse.

The Christie is committed to producing high quality, evidence based information for patients. Our patient information adheres to the principles and quality statements of the Information Standard. If you would like to have details about the sources used please contact **the-christie.patient.information@nhs.net**

For information and advice visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham, Salford or Macclesfield. Opening times can vary, please check before making a special journey.



Contact The Christie Hotline for
urgent support and specialist advice
The Christie Hotline: 0161 446 3658
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week