

Isatuximab (Sarclisa[®])

Treatment Guide

What is isatuximab?

Isatuximab, also known as Sarclisa[®], is a monoclonal antibody drug used in the treatment of myeloma.

How does it work?

Isatuximab works by attaching to a protein that is present on the surface of myeloma cells.

Myeloma cells produce a protein called CD38 which is present on the cell surface. Isatuximab attaches to the CD38 protein found on the surface of myeloma cells, which flags the cell to the immune system. This allows the immune system to target and kill the myeloma cell.

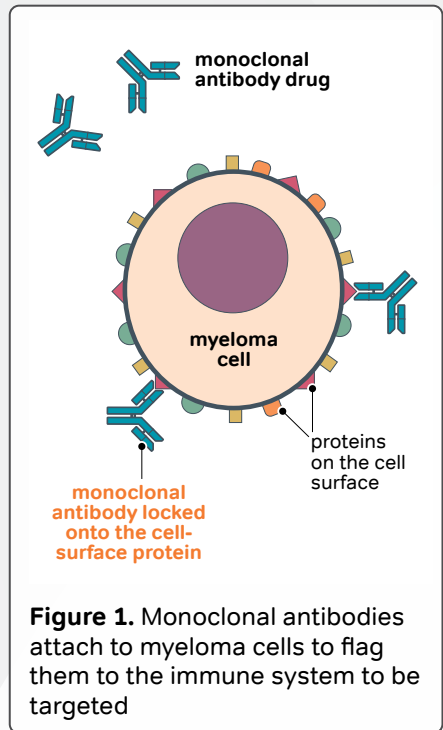


Figure 1. Monoclonal antibodies attach to myeloma cells to flag them to the immune system to be targeted

How is isatuximab given?



Isatuximab is given by intravenous infusion (into a vein).



Isatuximab is usually given in combination with other anti-myeloma drugs.



Isatuximab is usually given once a week for the first 28 day (4 week) cycle, and once every 2 weeks after that. It is given until there is disease progression, meaning there are signs your myeloma is becoming more active. Individual treatment plans may vary. Your exact dose of isatuximab and your length of treatment will be discussed with you by your healthcare team.

Other information about isatuximab



You should not take isatuximab during pregnancy as it is not known if it could be harmful to an unborn baby. This means you should use effective methods of contraception while on this treatment and for 5 months afterwards if you could become pregnant.



If you would like to breastfeed your baby whilst taking isatuximab, you should discuss the benefits and risks with your healthcare team. This is because it is not known if the drug can pass to your baby in the milk.



Isatuximab can affect test results used to match your blood for transfusions. The effect may last for up to 6 months after your final infusion of isatuximab. You should have blood matching done before you start treatment with isatuximab and all your healthcare team should be informed that you are being treated with isatuximab.

Possible side effects

Isatuximab has a number of possible side effects which can vary considerably from patient to patient. It is important to report any side effects to your doctor or nurse so they can be treated or managed promptly.

The side effects listed here are those experienced most often. For a complete list of side effects please refer to the patient information leaflet which is included in the pack with the treatment. If you do not have this, ask your healthcare team for it.

Infusion reaction

'Infusion reaction' may affect patients given isatuximab. It may happen during or after the infusions, and it is more likely near the start of treatment. Symptoms can include feeling short of breath, cough, chills, nausea and (in severe cases) increased blood pressure. You may be given supportive treatment alongside the isatuximab treatment to try to reduce the risk of an infusion reaction occurring. If you notice any of these side effects, report them to your doctor or nurse immediately. You will need to have further treatment to stop the reaction.

Low blood counts

Isatuximab may cause a decrease in the number of red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets in your blood. This can cause anaemia (which can cause shortness of breath, tiredness and weakness) and fatigue, as well as making you more susceptible to infection and increasing your risk of bleeding. If necessary, you will be given supportive treatment to help with these side effects and to boost your blood cell counts.



Increased risk of infection

Isatuximab can suppress the immune system which could lead to an increased risk of infection, or make an infection worse, including pneumonia, upper airway infection and bronchitis. It is important to tell your doctor or nurse about any signs of infection such as:

- A high temperature
- A productive cough
- Pain when passing urine
- Any area of swelling or inflammation



Fever

Isatuximab can cause an increase in body temperature (a fever) combined with low levels of white blood cells, which can be serious. Tell your healthcare team if you develop a fever.



Gastrointestinal disturbances

Isatuximab can cause diarrhoea or nausea and vomiting. While usually mild and manageable, these side effects can become problematic in some cases. Maintaining a good fluid intake and a balanced diet is important. Your doctor may prescribe specific treatment which can help prevent or control the symptoms.



Reduced appetite or weight loss

Isatuximab may cause reduced appetite or weight loss. Maintaining a balanced diet will help you to manage these symptoms. Your doctor may refer you to a dietician for advice if these problems persist.



Feeling short of breath

You may experience dyspnoea (feeling short of breath). You should tell your healthcare team if you experience this side effect.



Fatigue

Fatigue usually resolves shortly after treatment has finished. There are a number of medical and nonmedical strategies you may try to help manage fatigue. For example, treatment for anaemia may reduce fatigue if it is caused by low red blood cell counts. Increasing your levels of activity and having complementary therapies, such as aromatherapy or massage, may also help.



If you have any questions about your treatment, speak to your medical team. They are the best people to ask if you have questions about your individual situation. The information in this publication is not meant to replace their advice.



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