

Isatuximab (Sarclisa®)

Treatment Guide

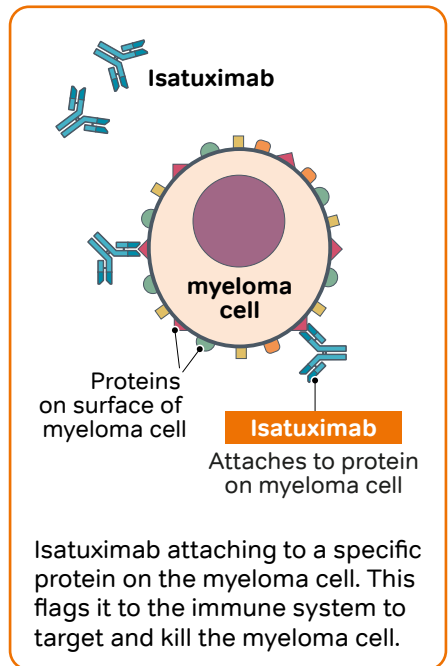
What is isatuximab?

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

How does it work?

All cells of the body, including abnormal myeloma cells, have proteins on their surface. Myeloma cells produce a specific protein called CD38. Isatuximab works by attaching to this protein.

When isatuximab attaches to the CD38 protein, it flags the myeloma cell to the immune system. This allows the immune system to target and kill the myeloma cell.



How is isatuximab given?



Isatuximab is given as an intravenous infusion (into the vein).



Isatuximab is usually given in combination with other myeloma treatments.



Isatuximab is normally given until your myeloma starts to become more active. Individual treatment plans vary, your healthcare team will discuss your specific plan.

Possible side effects

Isatuximab has a number of possible side effects which can vary from patient to patient. You will experience some side effects, but it is unlikely you will experience them all. Most side effects will ease once treatment has finished. Always report any side effects to your healthcare team as soon as possible so they can be treated quickly.

Side effects of isatuximab are more common in the parts of the body where there are rapidly dividing cells, i.e. the hair follicles, bone marrow, skin, and the lining of the mouth and gut.

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.



Myeloma UK provides a wide range of information booklets about side effects and their management. Relevant booklets are signposted beneath each side effect on the following pages.

You can find these along with all of our information booklets online at myeloma.org.uk/library.

You can also find out more about the management of these side effects by asking your healthcare team or by contacting Myeloma UK.



0800 557 3332



AskTheNurse@myeloma.org.uk



myeloma.org.uk



Infusion reaction (cytokine release syndrome)

This is a very common side effect of isatuximab and usually occurs within 24 hours of the first dose. Symptoms include: chills, nausea and vomiting, cough, and feeling short of breath. You will be given other medicines alongside your isatuximab to reduce the risk of an infusion reaction. However, if you notice any of these side effects, report them to your healthcare team immediately.



Risk of infection

Isatuximab may affect your immune system, increasing your risk of infection. Common signs include: high or low temperature (37.5°C or above, or below 36°C), feeling shivery or cold, passing urine more often or pain on passing urine, and cough or cold symptoms.



Contact your healthcare team or out of hours service immediately if you think you have an infection. Infections can be serious if not treated quickly.



For more information see the **Infection and myeloma Infosheet** from Myeloma UK.

Fatigue

Fatigue is a feeling of extreme tiredness that is not relieved by sleep. It usually resolves after treatment has finished. Your treatment, any side effects, and your mental health can all impact fatigue. Treating any medical causes such as anaemia, can help to manage fatigue. Allowing time for rest, gentle exercise and complementary therapies such as massage may also help.

Anaemia and bleeding

Isatuximab can decrease the number of red blood cells, causing anaemia. Symptoms include: looking pale, shortness of breath and fatigue. Isatuximab can also decrease the number of platelets, increasing your risk of bleeding or bruising. Treatment for these side effects can ease symptoms and boost your blood cell counts.



For more information see the **Fatigue and myeloma Infoguide** and the **Thrombocytopenia and myeloma Infosheet** from Myeloma UK.

Eye problems

Isatuximab can cause clouding of the eye, called cataracts. Speak to your healthcare team if you notice any blurred or double vision, or light sensitivity as they may refer you to an eye specialist.



For more information see the **Eye complications Infosheet** from Myeloma UK.



Shortness of breath

Isatuximab can cause you to feel short of breath. Speak to your healthcare team if you have any changes to your breathing such as breathlessness or wheezing, as there can be many causes of shortness of breath.



Heart problems

Isatuximab can cause heart problems or worsen pre-existing heart conditions when taken with carfilzomib and dexamethasone. It can also cause high blood pressure. Report any headaches, dizziness or more noticeable heartbeats to your healthcare team.



Call 999 if you experience any chest pain or tightness.



Gut problems and appetite loss

Isatuximab can cause diarrhoea. You should drink at least 2 litres (3 to 4 pints) a day to prevent dehydration and avoid highly spiced or fatty foods, caffeine and alcohol. You may also be prescribed medicine to reduce the diarrhoea. If your diarrhoea is severe, contact your healthcare team, as you may need fluids via a drip.

Isatuximab may also cause nausea or vomiting. You may be given anti-sickness (anti-emetic) medicine to prevent or reduce nausea and vomiting. You must take them as prescribed rather than waiting until you feel sick. There are different types of anti-sickness medicine. If the one you have is not effective, ask to try another.

These side effects alongside the isatuximab treatment itself may all reduce your appetite or cause weight loss. If you are concerned about your appetite or losing weight, ask to be referred to a dietitian. They may offer high-calorie food or drink supplements.



For more information see the **Gastrointestinal disturbances Infosheet** from Myeloma UK.



Tumour lysis syndrome (TLS)

Isatuximab can cause a fast breakdown of myeloma cells, releasing lots of waste chemicals into the blood. This is called tumour lysis syndrome (TLS). It can cause an irregular heartbeat, muscle cramps, kidney problems and seizures (fits). You may be advised to drink plenty of fluids or have medicine to prevent TLS.

Important information about isatuximab



Isatuximab can affect the test used to match your blood for blood transfusions. This can last for up to 6 months after your final dose of isatuximab. You should have this blood test done before you start any isatuximab treatment. You should also tell any healthcare professionals involved in your care that you are having isatuximab.



It is not recommended to have isatuximab if you are pregnant as it may not be safe for the baby. If you could become pregnant, you should use effective contraception during treatment, and for 5 months after treatment has finished.



It is generally advised that you should not breastfeed when taking isatuximab. It is not known if it could pass to the milk. Speak to your healthcare team for more information.



Supplements or herbal medicines that have not been prescribed by your haematologist may cause harm when taken alongside your prescribed treatment.

You must speak to your healthcare team before taking any kind of supplement or alternative treatment, including herbal, traditional or natural medicines and remedies, and vitamins or wellbeing supplements, to ensure it is safe to do so.



If you have any questions about your treatment, speak to your healthcare 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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We're here for everything a diagnosis of myeloma brings

Get in touch to find out more about how we can support you

Call the Myeloma Infoline on

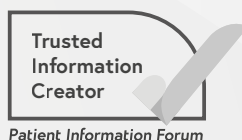
 **0800 980 3332**

Email Ask the Nurse at

 **AskTheNurse@myeloma.org.uk**

Visit our website at

 **myeloma.org.uk**



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We appreciate your feedback

Please fill in a short online survey about our patient information
at **myeloma.org.uk/pifedback** or email any comments to
patientinfo@myeloma.org.uk



For a list of references used to develop our resources, visit
myeloma.org.uk/references