

## PHARMACY

### Drug Information

# Ixekizumab



### What is Ixekizumab?

- Ixekizumab is an antibody drug that helps to reduce your symptoms of rashes, pain and inflammation.
- It is used in the treatment of psoriatic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis.

### How do I Administer Ixekizumab?

- Ixekizumab is available as a prefilled injection pen. You can administer it by injecting your medication under your skin (subcutaneous) at the front of your thighs, your lower abdomen (at least 2 inches away from your belly button) or your upper outer arms.
- Avoid scars, stretch marks or areas where the skin is painful, bruised, red, scaly or hard. Before injecting your medication on your own or by your carer, you or your carer should receive training from your rheumatology nurse clinician or pharmacist. Remember to rotate your injection site each time.
- Do administer your medication regularly to experience the full benefits of the drug. Ixekizumab does not work immediately and it may take weeks to months before you notice any benefit.
- If you miss a dose, inject the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, only inject the usual dose. Do not double your dosage to make up for the missed dose.

### Can I Take Ixekizumab With My Other Medications?

- You can take Ixekizumab with other medications such as corticosteroids, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and other common disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs).
- Please inform your doctor, pharmacist or rheumatology nurse clinician if you are taking other medications as they may interact with Ixekizumab. These include:
  - Over-the-counter medicines
  - Nutritional supplements
  - Traditional or herbal remedies

- Discuss with your doctor before you receive any vaccines. Pneumococcal and Influenza vaccinations are safe and may be given if required. Avoid live vaccines such as:
  - Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR)
  - Oral polio vaccine (OPV)
  - Chickenpox (Varicella)
  - Yellow fever or
  - Tuberculosis (BCG)

### What are Some Side Effects of Ixekizumab I may Experience?

- You may experience some side effects of Ixekizumab only after years of taking this medication. Talk to your doctor immediately if you experience any of these side effects:

Side Effects	Management
Common side effects: Stuffy/runny nose, sore throat, cold sores, nausea, injection site reactions (e.g. itch, swelling or bruising)	These are usually mild and tend to resolve on its own.  Inform your doctor if your symptoms persist.
Infection  <b>(Warning signs:</b> fever exceeding 38°C, chills, tiredness)	Seek medical attention immediately if you feel unwell.  You should inform your attending doctor immediately that you are taking Ixekizumab. You may need to stop your medication while you are having an infection.

Side Effects	Management
Blood disorders (e.g. low white blood cell count, low platelets count)	You might not experience any symptoms from these side effects. It is important to monitor the effects of your new medicine, particularly during your first three months of treatment. Your doctor will order regular blood tests for monitoring.
Rare side effect: Inflammatory bowel disease  <b>(Warning signs:</b> severe diarrhoea, persistent stomach pain or blood in stools)	Consult your doctor immediately.  Inform your doctor if you have a history of inflammatory bowel disease.

- If you develop rashes, facial swelling or shortness of breath after taking the medication, you could be allergic to the medication. Please seek medical attention immediately.

### What are Some Safety Precautions That I Need to Take?

- Ixekizumab may reduce your body's ability to fight against infection. Avoid crowded places and direct contact with any sick person while on Ixekizumab.
- Avoid consumption of raw or undercooked food.
- If you are a woman of childbearing age, you should use reliable contraceptive measures while on Ixekizumab, and for at least ten weeks after stopping Ixekizumab.
- Breastfeeding is not recommended while receiving treatment with Ixekizumab.
- If you are scheduled for an operation, please inform your rheumatologist as you may need to stop Ixekizumab prior to your surgery.

## How do I Store Ixekizumab?

- Store your medication in a refrigerator between 2 to 8°C. Do not freeze or shake the injection.
- Ixekizumab solution should be clear and its colour may vary from colourless to slightly yellow. Do not use if the solution contains easily visible particles, is cloudy or is distinctly brown.

## How do I Dispose My Medication?

After injecting Ixekizumab, you should place the used pen in a puncture-resistant container such as a used metal tin. You may bring the used metal tin to the pharmacy or clinic for proper disposal.

If you have any problem with your treatment, please contact your doctor, pharmacist or rheumatology nurse clinician immediately.

Please keep all medications out of reach of children.

