
Bamlanivmab for Mild-to-Moderate COVID-19

Download Patient Education

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What is bamlanivmab?

Bamlanivmab is an investigational monoclonal antibody therapy for the treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in adult and pediatric patients. It is approved for emergency use by the Food and Drug Administration.

Who may receive bamlanivmab?

Bamlanivmab is approved for use in adult and pediatric patients ages 12 years and older and weigh at least 88 pounds (40 kg) who have tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus and are at high risk for progressing to severe COVID-19 and/or hospitalization.

Patients who are considered high risk meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Have a body mass index (BMI) ≥ 35
 - Have chronic kidney disease
 - Have diabetes
 - Have immunosuppressive disease
 - Are currently receiving immunosuppressive treatment
 - Are ≥ 65 years of age
 - Are ≥ 55 years of age AND have
 - cardiovascular disease, OR
 - hypertension, OR
 - chronic obstructive pulmonary disease/other chronic respiratory disease.
 - Are 12 – 17 years of age AND have
 - BMI ≥ 85 th percentile for their age and gender based on CDC growth charts, https://www.cdc.gov/growthcharts/clinical_charts.htm, OR
 - sickle cell disease, OR
 - congenital or acquired heart disease, OR
 - neurodevelopmental disorders, for example, cerebral palsy, OR
 - a medical-related technological dependence, for example, tracheostomy, gastrostomy, or positive pressure ventilation (not related to COVID-19), OR
 - asthma, reactive airway or other chronic respiratory disease that requires daily medication for control.
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How is Bamlanivmab administered?

Bamlanivimab is administered by intravenous (IV) infusion by a trained health care professional. During an IV infusion, a thin plastic tube is inserted into a vein using a needle. Medication is slowly delivered through the tube into directly into the vein.

What are the possible side effects of bamlanivimab?

Possible side effects of bamlanivimab are:

Allergic reactions. Allergic reactions can happen during and after infusion with bamlanivimab. Tell your health care provider right away if you get any of the following signs and symptoms of allergic reactions: fever; chills; nausea; headache; shortness of breath; low blood pressure; wheezing; swelling of your lips, face, or throat; rash, including hives; itching; muscle aches; and dizziness.

The side effects of getting any medicine by vein may include brief pain, bleeding, bruising of the skin, soreness, swelling, and possible infection at the infusion site.

These are not all the possible side effects of bamlanivimab. Not a lot of people have been given bamlanivimab. Bamlanivimab is still being studied, so it is possible that all of the risks are not known at this time. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions.

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