

Mirikizumab - Medication Information

What is mirikizumab?

Mirikizumab (brand name: Omvoh™) is a medication used to treat ulcerative colitis. It is a type of medication that is in the class called monoclonal antibodies. It works by blocking chemicals in the body that can cause inflammation.

How is mirikizumab given?

For the first 3 doses, mirikizumab is given into a vein as an infusion. A typical infusion takes 30 minutes. Each are given 4 weeks apart.

After the 3 infusions, it is an injection, or shot, that you can give yourself. It comes in a pre-filled pen. Four weeks after the 3rd infusion, 200 mg is given every 4 weeks. Some patients may need to get the injections more frequently. Your provider will work with you to adjust your injection schedule as needed.

What should I do if I miss a dose of mirikizumab?

Inject your missed dose as soon as you remember, and then start a new dosing schedule based on when the missed dose was taken. If it has been more than 5 days since your injection was due, call your provider for instructions on what to do.

When can I expect mirikizumab to work?

Some patients may feel an improvement in symptoms as soon as 3 weeks after starting mirikizumab. Typically, it takes up to 8-12 weeks to notice a significant benefit.

Mirikizumab works for most patients. The medication may stop working in some patients every year. To make sure that it keeps working, it is important to stay on track with your injection schedule and do not miss any injections.

Studies have shown that early effective treatment for ulcerative colitis is associated with long-term benefits including lowering the likelihood of needing surgery or hospitalization for health problems related to ulcerative colitis.

What tests are needed while I am on mirikizumab?

Before beginning mirikizumab treatment, you will need blood tests to check for hepatitis B and tuberculosis infections. You may also need to test for tuberculosis every year. Blood counts and liver tests are done every 3-4 months while on mirikizumab.

What are the potential side effects of mirikizumab?

Side effects with mirikizumab are uncommon, but may include:

Allergic reaction: Patients may develop allergic reactions to mirikizumab as with any other medication. Reactions may include rash, hives, or swelling of the lips or throat. This is uncommon and can be treated with steroid and antihistamine medications.

Injection site reaction: Pain, redness, or swelling where the injection was given may occur. This is uncommon and may be treated with antihistamine medications and cool compresses before the injection.

Infection: As with other medications that act on the immune system, mirikizumab may increase your risk of infections. Serious infections are uncommon and only occur in a few people.



Joint pain: Patients may experience some pain in joints. Let your provider know if you experience any changes or worsening in joint pains. This can occur in fewer than 4 out of 100 patients.

Liver injury: Changes in liver function can occur. This is not common and may occur in 1-2 out of 100 patients. Liver function should be monitored through blood tests every 3-4 months.

Please see the medication package insert for the full list of potential side effects.

Is mirikizumab safe during pregnancy and breastfeeding?

There is limited data on the safety of mirikizumab during pregnancy. If you are on mirikizumab while pregnant, live virus vaccines such as the rotavirus vaccine are not recommended for your baby within the first 6 months of age.

It is known that mirikizumab is transferred into breast milk, but the effect on the breastfed baby is unclear. While there is limited data on this, there is plenty of safety data on biologics that work similarly that suggests there is no harm to the mother or baby.

It is important to discuss with your provider about continuing mirikizumab before, during, and after pregnancy. Most patients continue the treatment during their pregnancy.

How can I take care of my health while on mirikizumab?

It is important to be up to date with your health maintenance while on mirikizumab. This includes being current on all the recommended vaccines such as the flu, COVID-19, pneumococcal, tetanus, and shingles vaccines. You should only get the recombinant shingles vaccine (brand name: Shingrix®). Do not get the older shingles vaccines that contain the live but weakened virus. You should not get any live virus vaccines while on mirikizumab or for 3 months after stopping it. Speak to your primary care doctor about whether you are up to date on all your vaccines.

What if my out-of-pocket costs are high with this treatment?

Our pharmacy team will work with you to see if you qualify for patient assistance and help with the application process.

The manufacturer of mirikizumab has a patient assistance program called Omvoh Together™ for patients on the medication. Please go to <https://www.omvoh.com/savings-support> for more information on this program.

What if I have questions about mirikizumab?

Talk with your provider about any questions or concerns you may have about mirikizumab.

This document has been reviewed for plain language by Blum Center staff.

