

# Risankizumab - Medication Information

## What is risankizumab?

Risankizumab (brand name: Skyrizi®) is a medication used to treat Crohn's disease. It is a type of medication that is categorized as a monoclonal antibody, and it works by blocking chemicals in the body that cause inflammation.

## How is risankizumab given?

For the first 3 doses, risankizumab is given into a vein as an infusion. A typical infusion takes 1 hour. These are each 4 weeks apart.

After the first 3 doses, it is an injection, or shot, that you can give yourself. It comes in a pre-filled pen or as an on-body injector (OBI). Four weeks after the 3<sup>rd</sup> IV infusion, either 180 mg or 360 mg is given every 8 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 risankizumab?

Inject your missed dose as soon as you remember, and then give the next injection at the regular scheduled time. 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 Risankizumab to work?

Some patients may feel an improvement in symptoms as soon as 4 weeks of starting risankizumab. Typically, it takes up to 8-12 weeks to notice a significant benefit.

Risankizumab 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 Crohn's disease is associated with long-term benefits including lowering the likelihood of needing surgery or hospitalization for health problems related to Crohn's disease.

## What tests are needed while I am on risankizumab?

Before beginning risankizumab 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 4 months while on risankizumab.

## What are the potential side effects of risankizumab?

Side effects with risankizumab are uncommon, but may include:

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

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

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

## **Is risankizumab safe during pregnancy and breastfeeding?**

There is limited data on the safety of risankizumab during pregnancy. If you are on risankizumab 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 risankizumab is transferred into breast milk, but the effects 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 risankizumab before, during, and after pregnancy. Most patients continue the treatment during their pregnancy.

## **How can I take care of my health while on risankizumab?**

It is important to be up to date with your health maintenance while on risankizumab. This includes being current on all the recommended vaccines such as the flu, COVID-19, pneumococcal, 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 risankizumab 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 risankizumab has a patient assistance program for patients on the medication. Please go to [www.abbvie.com/content/dam/abbvie-com2/pdfs/pap/skyrizi-patient-assistance-application.pdf](http://www.abbvie.com/content/dam/abbvie-com2/pdfs/pap/skyrizi-patient-assistance-application.pdf) for more information on this program.

## **What if I have questions about risankizumab?**

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

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

