

Patient Information Sheet: Vedolizumab for IBD

What are the other names for vedolizumab?

| Biologic Class | Generic Name | Innovator Name | Biosimilars |
|--|--------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Anti-integrin alpha-4-beta-7 adhesion molecule | Vedolizumab | Entyvio® | None currently available. |

*for more information on the different names of biologics and what they mean please view the Biologic Summary information sheet.

What is an integrin and an adhesion molecule?

The white blood cells (WBC) in your blood stream migrate to the intestine during times of infection or inflammation. To target these WBC when they are moving to a specific site in the body, a protein called integrin will grab onto an adhesion molecule on the blood vessels wall and then pull itself through the wall of the blood vessel and into the tissue. In people with IBD, this happens in the intestines.

What is a human antibody to an adhesion molecule (vedolizumab)?

Vedolizumab is a medication designed to block the adhesion and migration of your white blood cells into the intestine. For this reason, it is only used in patients with IBD.

When is an antibody to an adhesion molecule (vedolizumab) given?

Vedolizumab is used to treat patients with moderate to severe Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. It can be used as a first-line therapy or in those who have failed other therapies. Vedolizumab is not a cure but it can induce remission and, when given over the long-term, maintain remission of inflammatory bowel disease.

How is vedolizumab given?

Vedolizumab is given intravenously during a 30-minute infusion. If vedolizumab is effective in a patient with inflammatory bowel disease, he or she may be prescribed it long-term for maintenance purposes.

What are the potential side effects of vedolizumab?

The short-term side effects are flu-like symptoms.

Patients receiving vedolizumab are at increased risk for infections. Any signs of fever should be reported to your IBD health practitioner promptly. It is possible to develop an



allergic reaction to vedolizumab or to experience a localized injection site reaction. It is also possible to develop upper respiratory and/or nasopharynx infections.

Do I need to get any blood tests while I am receiving vedolizumab?

Yes, your IBD health practitioner will likely request periodic blood tests while taking this medication. Regular follow-up visits with your IBD health practitioner to discuss progress and concerns are highly recommended.

What is the cost of vedolizumab?

Vedolizumab is extremely expensive. The majority of patients require insurance to help pay for the medication. This can be either a private insurance plan and/or a provincial/territorial high cost drug plan.