

# Pembrolizumab (Keytruda®)

Pembrolizumab is a monoclonal antibody used to treat cancer. It helps your immune system slow or stop the growth of cancer cells.

## How Is It Given?

- clear liquid by IV (intravenous)

## What Side Effects May Occur?

This is a partial list of the side effects you may have with this medicine. You may have some, all or none of those listed, or you may have other side effects not listed. Most side effects last only a short time.

### Common:

- reaction, most often with the first dose (fever, chills, swelling of the tongue, shortness of breath)
- headache
- nausea (upset stomach)
- itchy skin or rash
- fatigue (tiredness)
- cough
- cold symptoms (runny nose, throat irritation, sinus infection)

### Less common:

- nausea (upset stomach)
- dizziness
- stomach pain
- chest pain (after the treatment)

### Less common but serious:

- Pembrolizumab can cause your immune system to attack healthy parts of your body. This can happen during or after your treatment. Your health care team will watch for symptoms of this reaction throughout your treatment and monitor your health with regular lab work.

## Special Notes

- Some medicines may interact with pembrolizumab. Tell your doctor if you are taking any prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, herbals or natural products.
- Talk with your doctor before you get any immunizations or vaccinations while taking this medicine.
- You may receive medicines before each infusion to help reduce any side effects.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. This medicine can harm an unborn baby.
- Talk with your doctor about using birth control. You should not get pregnant or father a child while taking this medicine and for 4 months after your last dose.
- Do not breastfeed while taking this medicine.

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## When To Call Your Doctor

You should call your doctor if you have:

- chills or a temperature of 100.4 or higher
- chest pain
- trouble breathing or shortness of breath
- swollen lips or tongue
- new or worsening cough
- muscle stiffness
- sudden, severe headache
- severe stomach pain
- yellowing of your skin or eyes
- black or bloody stools
- diarrhea
- weakness, dizziness or fainting
- vision changes.

Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you want more complete medicine information or if you have questions.