

# Bevacizumab (Avastin<sup>®</sup>)

Bevacizumab is a monoclonal antibody used to treat cancer. It targets tumor cells and blocks the growth of new blood vessels from the tumor.

## 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:

- weakness
- pain or stomach pain
- nausea (upset stomach) or vomiting (throwing up)
- loss of appetite
- mouth sores
- lung infection
- diarrhea (loose stools) or constipation (unable to have a bowel movement)
- high blood pressure
- nosebleeds
- hair loss
- headache or dizziness
- protein in the urine

### Less common:

- allergic reaction while you are getting the infusion (Tell your nurse or doctor right away if you have:)
  - problems breathing
  - chest pain, pressure or tightness
  - headache
  - rash or itching
  - chills or shaking
- lowered white blood cell count
- dry or peeling skin
- problems breathing
- change in taste

### Less common but serious:

- problems with wounds healing
- severe increase in blood pressure
- stroke, heart attack or angina (chest pain)
- damage to your kidneys
- severe bleeding
- perforations (holes) in your stomach, intestines or colon
- heart failure

## Special Notes

- Be sure to tell your doctor if you have had recent surgery or if you plan to have surgery after receiving this medicine.
- You may receive medicine to control your blood pressure while you are using bevacizumab. You should have your blood pressure checked regularly.

## When To Call Your Doctor

You should call your doctor if you have:

- sudden abdominal (belly) pain with vomiting, constipation or blood in your stool
- coughing up blood
- sudden, severe headache
- problems breathing
- weakness, tingling or numbness in your face, arms or legs
- trouble speaking or being understood
- tightness, pressure or pain in your chest
- wounds that do not heal or stop bleeding.

Tell your doctor if you have problems with the following side effects:

- fever, chills or sore throat
- nausea or vomiting
- diarrhea
- black or bloody stools
- blood in your urine
- mouth sores
- nosebleeds.

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