

# Information for Patients

## BAVENCIO® ▼ (avelumab)

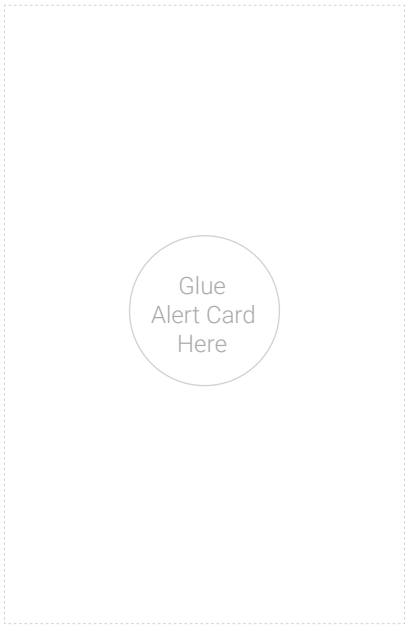
**Important safety information to  
minimise the risk of immune-related  
side effects**



This medicine is subject to additional monitoring. This will allow quick identification of new safety information. You can help by reporting any side effects you may get. See <https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/> or call 0800 731 6789 for how to report side effects. If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in the package leaflet.

# Introduction

Your doctor has prescribed avelumab to treat your cancer. Please refer to the Patient Information Leaflet which comes with the medicine and contains full details about what avelumab is and what it is used for. This brochure will serve as a guide to your treatment, including what to expect while you are taking this medicine. This guide will explain some of the side effects that might occur during or after treatment with avelumab and how to check for them. In some cases symptoms may be delayed, and may develop after your last dose. You will also learn why it is important to report any symptoms to your doctor right away.



## Hospital Contact Details

# What you should know about your treatment

## Possible side effects

Like all medicines, avelumab can cause side effects, although not everyone gets them.

Avelumab acts on your immune system and may cause inflammation in parts of your body. Inflammation may cause serious damage to your body and some inflammatory conditions may need additional treatment and your avelumab treatment may be withdrawn. In rare cases, some of these side-effects may lead to death.

**Seek urgent medical attention if you have any of these, or other, symptoms, or if they get worse. They may happen weeks or months after your last dose. Do not try to treat yourself with other medicines:**

Side Effects	Sign or Symptoms
Lung problems (inflammation of the lungs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Breathing difficulties</li><li>Cough</li></ul>
Liver problems (inflammation of the liver)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Yellowing of skin or whites of your eyes (jaundice)</li><li>Severe nausea or vomiting</li><li>Pain on the right side of your stomach area (abdomen)</li><li>Drowsiness</li><li>Dark urine (tea coloured)</li><li>Bleeding or bruising more easily than normal</li><li>Feeling less hungry than usual</li><li>Tiredness</li><li>Abnormal liver function tests</li></ul>
Intestinal problems (inflammation of the intestines)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Diarrhoea (loose stools)</li><li>More bowel movements than usual</li><li>Blood in your stools or dark, tarry, sticky stools</li><li>Severe stomach (abdomen) pain or tenderness</li></ul>

Side Effects	Sign or Symptoms
<b>Hormone gland problems (inflammation of the hormone producing glands especially thyroid, pituitary, adrenal)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extreme tiredness</li> <li>• Rapid heartbeat</li> <li>• Increased sweating</li> <li>• Changes in mood or behaviour, such as irritability or forgetfulness</li> <li>• Feeling cold</li> <li>• Very low blood pressure (fainting, dizziness, fatigue, nausea)</li> <li>• Weight change</li> <li>• Headache</li> </ul>
<b>Type 1 diabetes, including a serious, sometimes life-threatening problem due to increased acid in the blood produced from diabetes (diabetic ketoacidosis)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feeling more hungry or thirsty than usual</li> <li>• Needing to urinate more often</li> <li>• Weight loss</li> <li>• Feeling tired</li> <li>• Having difficulty thinking clearly</li> <li>• Breath that smells sweet or fruity</li> <li>• Feeling sick or being sick</li> <li>• Stomach pain</li> <li>• Deep or fast breathing</li> </ul>
<b>Kidney problems (inflammation of the kidney)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abnormal kidney function tests</li> <li>• Urinating less than usual</li> <li>• Blood in your urine</li> <li>• Swelling in your ankles</li> </ul>
<b>Pancreas problems (Inflammation of the pancreas)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abdominal pain</li> <li>• Nausea</li> <li>• Vomiting</li> </ul>
<b>Heart problems (inflammation of the heart)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trouble breathing</li> <li>• Dizziness or fainting</li> <li>• Fever</li> <li>• Chest pain and chest tightness</li> <li>• Flu-like symptoms</li> </ul>
<b>Muscle problems (inflammation of muscle)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muscle pain</li> <li>• Weakness</li> </ul>

Side Effects	Sign or Symptoms
<b>Eye problems (inflammation of the eye)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eye pain</li> <li>• Eye redness</li> <li>• Sensitivity to light</li> <li>• Blurred or cloudy vision</li> <li>• Small shapes moving across your field of vision (floaters)</li> <li>• Loss of peripheral vision (the ability to see objects at the side of your field of vision)</li> </ul>
<b>Nervous system problems</b>	<p>Guillain-Barre Syndrome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain</li> <li>• Numbness</li> <li>• Muscle weakness</li> <li>• Difficulty walking</li> </ul> <p>Myasthenia gravis, myasthenic syndrome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muscle weakness</li> </ul>
<b>Infusion-related reactions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shortness of breath or wheezing</li> <li>• Chills or shaking</li> <li>• Bumpy rash or skin wheals</li> <li>• Flushing</li> <li>• Low blood pressure (dizziness, fatigue, nausea)</li> <li>• Fever</li> <li>• Back pain</li> <li>• Abdominal pain</li> </ul>

## Watching for side effects

### It is important to be aware of symptoms

If you notice any signs or symptoms while receiving avelumab, you should talk to your doctor right away. Be aware that side effects may still occur weeks or months after receiving the last dose of avelumab.

Certain medications, such as corticosteroids, may be used to prevent more severe complications and reduce your symptoms. Your doctor may delay or completely stop your treatment if your side effects are too severe.

### What to do if symptoms occur when you are away from home

It is important that you contact your doctor or nurse whenever symptoms occur. Always carry your Alert Card with your doctor's contact information so that he or she may be reached in case of emergency. The Alert Card contains important information about symptoms that need to be reported immediately to a doctor or nurse treating you while you are away from home. It also alerts other doctors that you are being treated with avelumab.

**Carry your Alert Card with you at all times.**

## Don't miss an appointment for treatment with avelumab

If you stop or interrupt your treatment, it may stop the effect of the medicine. Do not stop treatment with avelumab unless you have discussed this with your doctor.

Please try your best to keep all of your appointments, and reschedule as soon as possible if you miss one. Contact your doctor or nurse immediately if you experience any side effects, including those not listed in this brochure.

Please contact your doctor if you have any questions about avelumab or how it works.

### Don't forget

Avelumab is a type of therapy that works by helping your body's immune system fight your cancer. This type of therapy can sometimes have side effects.

With avelumab, certain side effects can occur that may be severe. Contact your doctor right away if you experience any side effects. Speak with your doctor if you have any questions about avelumab or how it works.

### Where to find further information

For more information, consult the avelumab Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) at (GB) [www.medicines.org.uk](http://www.medicines.org.uk), (NI) [www.emcmedicines.com/en-gb/northernireland](http://www.emcmedicines.com/en-gb/northernireland) or call Merck Medical Information on +44 (0)208 818 7373.

### Reporting side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in the package leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at [www.mhra.go.uk/yellowcard](http://www.mhra.go.uk/yellowcard).

By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

