



## Tafasitamab-cxix (Monjuvi®)

**Pronounce:** TA-fa-SIT-a-mab cxix

**Classification:** Monoclonal antibody

### About Tafasitamab-cxix (Monjuvi®)

Tafasitamab-cxix is a monoclonal antibody. Monoclonal antibodies are created in a lab to attach to the targets found on certain types of cancer cells. The antibody “calls” the immune system to attack the cell it is attached to, causing the immune system to kill the cell. These antibodies can work in different ways, including stimulating (revving up) the immune system to kill the cell and by blocking cell growth or other functions needed for cell growth. Tafasitamab-cxix is an antibody directed against a protein called CD19.

### How to Take Tafasitamab-cxix

This medication is given as an IV (intravenous, directly into a vein) infusion. The dose will be based on your size and how often you receive the medication will depend on which cycle of chemotherapy you are receiving. How long the infusion takes will depend on if you have any reaction to the medication. You may be given medications before the infusion to prevent a reaction. These premedications may include a steroid, a histamine-1 (H1) receptor antagonist (such as diphenhydramine/Benadryl), and an antipyretic (such as acetaminophen/Tylenol).

### Possible Side Effects

There are a number of things you can do to manage the side effect of tafasitamab-cxix. Talk to your care team about these recommendations. They can help you decide what will work best for you. These are some of the most common or important side effects:

#### Infection and Low White Blood Cell Count (Leukopenia or Neutropenia)

White blood cells (WBC) are important for fighting infection. While receiving treatment, your [WBC count can drop](#), putting you at a higher risk of getting an infection. You should let your doctor or nurse know right away if you have a fever (temperature greater than 100.4°F or 38°C), sore throat or cold, shortness of breath, cough, burning with urination, or a sore that doesn't heal.

#### Tips to preventing infection:

- [Washing hands](#), both yours and your visitors, is the best way to prevent the spread of infection.
- Avoid large crowds and people who are sick (i.e.: those who have a cold, fever or cough or live with someone with these symptoms).
- When working in your yard, wear protective clothing including long pants and gloves.
- Do not handle pet waste.
- Keep all cuts or scratches clean.
- Shower or bathe daily and perform frequent [mouth care](#).
- Do not cut cuticles or ingrown nails. You may wear nail polish, but not fake nails.

- Ask your oncology care team before scheduling dental appointments or procedures.
- Ask your oncology care team before you, or someone you live with, has any vaccinations.

## Blood Sugar Changes

This medication can cause higher than normal blood sugar levels in patients with and without diabetes. Your oncology care team will monitor your blood sugar. Signs of high blood sugar are increased thirst, urination or hunger, blurry vision, headaches, or your breath may smell like fruit. If you have any of these symptoms, call your healthcare team. Diabetics should monitor their blood sugar closely and report elevations to the healthcare team.

## Electrolyte Abnormalities

This medication can affect the normal levels of electrolytes in your body, such as calcium, magnesium, and phosphate. Your levels will be monitored using blood tests. If your levels become too low, your care team may prescribe specific electrolytes to be given by IV or taken by mouth. Do not take any supplements without first consulting with your care team.

## Fatigue

**Fatigue** is very common during cancer treatment and is an overwhelming feeling of exhaustion that is not usually relieved by rest. While on cancer treatment, and for a period after, you may need to adjust your schedule to manage fatigue. Plan times to rest during the day and conserve energy for more important activities. Exercise can help combat fatigue; a simple daily walk with a friend can help. Talk to your healthcare team for helpful tips on dealing with this side effect.

## Low Red Blood Cell Count (Anemia)

Your red blood cells are responsible for carrying oxygen to the tissues in your body. When the **red cell count is low**, you may feel tired or weak. You should let your oncology care team know if you have any shortness of breath, difficulty breathing or pain in your chest. If the count gets too low, you may receive a blood transfusion.

## Diarrhea

Your oncology care team can recommend medications to relieve **diarrhea**. Also, try eating **low-fiber**, bland foods, such as white rice and boiled or baked chicken. Avoid raw fruits, vegetables, whole grain breads, cereals and seeds. Soluble fiber is found in some foods and absorbs fluid, which can help relieve diarrhea. Foods high in soluble fiber include: applesauce, bananas (ripe), canned fruit, orange sections, boiled potatoes, white rice, products made with white flour, oatmeal, cream of rice, cream of wheat, and farina. Drink 8-10 glasses of non-alcoholic, un-caffeinated fluid a day to prevent dehydration.

## Liver Toxicity

This medication can cause liver toxicity, which your care team may monitor for using blood tests called liver function tests. Notify your healthcare provider if you notice yellowing of the skin or eyes, if your urine appears dark or brown, or if you have pain in your abdomen (belly), as these can be signs of liver toxicity.

## Low Platelet Count (Thrombocytopenia)

Platelets help your blood clot, so when the **count is low** you are at a higher risk of bleeding. Let your oncology care team know if you have any excess bruising or bleeding, including nose bleeds, bleeding gums or blood in your urine or stool. If the platelet count becomes too low, you may receive a transfusion of platelets.

- Do not use a razor (an electric razor is fine).
- Avoid contact sports and activities that can result in injury or bleeding.
- Do not take aspirin (salicylic acid), non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory medications (NSAIDs) such as Motrin/Advil (ibuprofen), Aleve (naproxen), Celebrex (celecoxib) etc. as these can all increase the risk of

bleeding. Please consult with your healthcare team regarding use of these agents and all over the counter medications/supplements while on therapy.

- Do not floss or use toothpicks and use a soft-bristle toothbrush to brush your teeth.

## Peripheral Edema

Peripheral [edema](#) is swelling of the extremities caused by retention of fluid. It can cause swelling of the hands, arms, legs, ankles and feet. The swelling can become uncomfortable. Notify your oncology care team if you are experiencing any new or worsening swelling.

## Decrease in Appetite or Taste Changes

[Nutrition](#) is an important part of your care. Cancer treatment can affect your appetite and, in some cases, the side effects of treatment can make eating difficult. Ask your oncology care team about nutritional counseling services at your treatment center to help with food choices.

- Try to eat five or six small meals or snacks throughout the day, instead of 3 larger meals.
- If you are not eating enough, nutritional supplements may help.
- You may experience a metallic taste or find that food has no taste at all. You may dislike foods or beverages that you liked before receiving cancer treatment. These symptoms can last for several months or longer after treatment ends.
- Avoid any food that you think smells or tastes bad. If red meat is a problem, eat chicken, turkey, eggs, dairy products, and fish without a strong smell. Sometimes cold food has less of an odor.
- Add extra flavor to meat or fish by marinating it in sweet juices, sweet and sour sauce, or dressings. Use seasonings like basil, oregano, or rosemary to add flavor. Bacon, ham, and onion can add flavor to vegetables.

## Important but Less Common Side Effects

- **Infusion-Related Side Effects:** The infusion can cause a reaction that may lead to chills, fever, flushing (redness in the face), dyspnea (feeling short of breath), and hypertension (high blood pressure). You may receive medications before the infusion to prevent these reactions. Reactions are most common with the first few infusions. If you feel like you are having a reaction, tell your nurse right away.

## Reproductive Concerns

Exposure of an unborn child to this medication could cause birth defects, so you should not become pregnant or father a child while on this medication. Effective birth control is necessary during treatment and for at least 3 months after treatment. Even if your menstrual cycle stops or you believe you are not producing sperm, you could still be fertile and conceive. You should not breastfeed while receiving this medication or for 3 months after your last dose. If you are receiving this medication along with [lenalidomide](#), you should follow the reproductive recommendations for that medication.

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