Belantamab Mafodotin-blmf (Blenrep)

Pronounced: Monoclonal antibody, antibody drug conjugate

Classification: bel-AN-ta-mab mA-foe-DOE-tin blmf

About Belantamab Mafodotin-blmf (Blenrep)

Belantamab Mafodotin-blmf is a monoclonal antibody. Monoclonal antibodies are created in a lab to attach to the targets found on specific types of cancer cells. The antibody “calls” the immune system to attack the cell it is attached to, resulting in the immune system killing the cell. These antibodies can work in different ways, including stimulating the immune system to kill the cell, blocking cell growth or other functions necessary for cell growth. Belantamab Mafodotin-blmf is an antibody directed against B-cell maturation antigen.

How to Take Belantamab Mafodotin-blmf

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 be decided by your provider and if you have any reactions to the medication. If you have had a reaction to this medication you may be given medications prior to the infusion to prevent another reaction.

This medication is available only through a restricted program under a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) called the Blenrep REMS. This ensures that the facility where you are receiving this medication is qualified to administer the medication.

Possible Side Effects

There are a number of things you can do to manage the side effect of belantamab mafodotin-blmf. 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:

Eye Concerns

This medication can lead to a number of different issues with your eyes and sight. You will have an eye exam prior to starting this medication, frequently while you are receiving it, and if there are any sudden changes to your vision. Notify your provider right away if you start to notice any change in your vision including loss of vision, blurriness, or dry eye. This medication can lead to other issues such as keratopathy and corneal ulcers. Because of these possible side effects it is important to follow any instructions your provider gives you to care for your eyes. These may include the frequent use of lubricating drops to keep the eyes moist or refraining from wearing contact lenses. Contact your provider right away if you are having any new or worsening eye issues.

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.

**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 bath 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.

**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 experience any shortness of breath, difficulty breathing or pain in your chest. If the count gets too low, you may receive a blood transfusion.

**Liver Toxicity**

This medication can cause liver toxicity, which your oncology 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, your urine appears dark or brown, or you have pain in your abdomen, as these can be signs of liver toxicity.

**High Blood Sugar**

This medication can cause elevated blood sugar levels in patients with and without diabetes. Your oncology care team will monitor your blood sugar. If you develop increased thirst, urination or hunger, blurry vision, headaches or your breath smells like fruit, notify your healthcare team. Diabetics should monitor their blood sugar closely and report elevations to the healthcare team.

**Kidney Problems**

This medication can cause kidney problems, including an increased creatinine level, which your oncology care team may monitor for using blood tests. Notify your healthcare provider if you notice decreased urine output, blood in the urine, swelling in the ankles, or loss of appetite.

**Nausea and/or Vomiting**

Talk to your oncology care team so they can prescribe medications to help you manage nausea and vomiting. In addition, dietary changes may help. Avoid things that may worsen the symptoms, such as heavy or greasy/fatty, spicy or acidic foods (lemons, tomatoes, oranges). Try saltines, or ginger ale to lessen symptoms.

Call your oncology care team if you are unable to keep fluids down for more than 12 hours or if you feel lightheaded or dizzy at any time.

**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.

**Infusion-Related Side Effects**

The infusion can cause a reaction that may lead to chills, fever, flushing, dyspnea, and hypertension. You may receive medications prior to the infusion to help 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.

**Pneumonitis**

Patients can develop an inflammation of the lungs (called pneumonitis) while taking this medication. Notify your oncology care team right away if you develop any new or worsening symptoms, including shortness of breath, trouble breathing, cough, or fever.

**Sexual & Reproductive Concerns**

This medication may affect your reproductive system, resulting in the menstrual cycle or sperm production becoming irregular or stopping permanently. Women may experience menopausal effects including hot flashes and vaginal dryness. In addition, the desire for sex may decrease during treatment. You may want to consider sperm banking or egg harvesting if you may wish to have a child in the future. Discuss these options with your oncology team.

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 4 months after treatment for women and 6 months for men, even if your menstrual cycle stops or you believe you are not producing sperm. You should not breastfeed while receiving this medication or for 3 months after your last dose.

OncoLink is designed for educational purposes only and is not engaged in rendering medical advice or professional services. The information provided through OncoLink should not be used for diagnosing or treating a health problem or a disease. It is not a substitute for professional care. If you have or suspect you may have a health problem or have questions or concerns about the medication that you have been prescribed, you should consult your health care provider.