Ustekinumab

STELARA®, JAMTEKI®*, WEZLANA®*, FINLIUS®*, STEQEYMA®*, YESINTEK®*, OTULFI®*, PYZCHIVA®*, IMULDOSA®* *biosimilars

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CANADIAN CHILDREN INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE NETWORK
A CH.I.L.D. Foundation Initiative

What this medication is used for

Health Canada approved for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis in adults. Widely used for children with Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis in children.

Health Canada

Health Canada has also approved this class of medication for other immune mediated inflammatory conditions in children and adults.

How this medication works

Ustekinumab works by blocking the action of cytokines (IL-12 and IL-23) which are made by your immune system and drive inflammation.

How to use this medication

-Dose #1 given intravenously over at least an hour.

-Subsequent doses are given subcutaneously every 4-8 weeks. Individuals may require an intravenous reload or shortened interval between doses.

-Although some individuals receive benefit quite quickly, it can take a little longer in others. Keep taking your medication.

Where treatment is administered

Intravenous doses will be administered at a hospital or infusion centre.

Subcutaneous doses can be administered at home or given at an infusion centre.

How long to use this medication

This medication will be used to get your IBD under control and keep it under control long-term.

Special tests done prior to starting

Tests to screen for infections including tuberculosis and immunity to various viruses.

Monitoring during treatment

Regular blood work will be done to monitor for side effects to medication. The frequency of the blood work will be determined by your healthcare team.

The amount of ustekinumab in your blood can be monitored to make sure you are taking enough and not taking too much.

Side Effects

-Injection site reactions such as redness, pain and itching. Tell your doctor if these are severe.

-Dizziness, headaches, and upper respiratory tract infections.

-Medications that affect the immune system may be associated with developing infections and very rarely cancer.

When I should call my doctor

Please call if:
-You want to or have already stopped the medicine
-You are concerned about any side effects

Other reasons to call your doctor:
-If you have a fever or think you have an infection.
-If you develop headaches, seizures, confusion or vision trouble.

Vaccines

✗ Live vaccines - Not safe

✓ Inactivated vaccines - Safe

PLEASE NOTE: This content is for educational purposes only and does not replace professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment.

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