

Ustekinumab

STELARA®, JAMTEKI®, WEZLANA®, FINLIUS®, STEQEYMA®*

*biosimilars

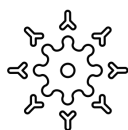


What this medication is used for

Widely used for children with Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.



Health Canada has also approved Ustekinumab for Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis in adults.



How this medication works

Ustekinumab is an antibody that 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. Often, 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.



Special tests done prior to starting

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



How long to use this medication

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



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.

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

-Dizziness and headaches.



When I should call my doctor

Please call if:


- You want to or have already stopped the medicine
- If 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 become pregnant
- Nausea, vomiting or abdominal pain
- If you develop headaches, seizures, confusion, or vision trouble



Vaccines

 Live vaccines
- Not safe

 Inactivated vaccines
- Safe