

Anti-thymocyte globulin (rabbit) (Thymoglobulin)

About This Drug

Anti-thymocyte globulin (rabbit) is used to prevent and treat kidney transplant rejection. It is given in the vein (IV).

Possible Side Effects

- Decrease in the number of white blood cells and platelets. This may raise your risk of infection and your risk of bleeding.
- Nausea
- Pain in your abdomen
- Fever and chills
- Increased potassium in your blood
- Headache
- Feeling nervous or worried (anxiety)
- Urinary tract infection
- Trouble breathing
- High blood pressure

Note: Each of the side effects above was reported in greater than 5% of patients treated with anti-thymocyte globulin (rabbit). Not all possible side effects are included above.

Warnings and Precautions

- Allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis are rare but may happen in some patients and can be life-threatening. Signs of allergic reaction to this drug may be swelling of the face, feeling like your tongue or throat are swelling, trouble breathing, rash, itching, fever, chills, feeling dizzy, and/or feeling that your heart is beating in a fast or not normal way. **If this happens, do not take another dose of this drug. You should get urgent medical treatment.**
- This drug may raise your risk of getting a second cancer, such as lymphoma.
- Severe decrease in white blood cells and/or platelets.
- Risk of severe and life-threatening infections.
- Injection site reaction - you may get a rash, swelling or bruising or your skin may get red, warm, itchy, or painful at the site of your infusion.

- Cytokine release syndrome (CRS), which can be life-threatening: Some types of cancer drugs can cause CRS because of the effects of the drug in your body. If this happens you may feel very sick and get a fever, headache, nausea, or feel weak. You may also have changes to your blood pressure. Because of this, your blood pressure and pulse may be checked while you are getting this drug.

Note: Some of the side effects above are very rare. If you have concerns and/or questions, please discuss them with your medical team.

Important Information

- Talk to your doctor before receiving any vaccinations during your treatment. Some vaccinations are not recommended while receiving anti-thymocyte globulin (rabbit).

Treating Side Effects

- To help decrease the risk of bleeding, use a soft toothbrush. Check with your nurse before using dental floss.
- Be very careful when using knives or tools.
- Use an electric shaver instead of a razor.
- To decrease the risk of infection, wash your hands regularly.
- Avoid close contact with people who have a cold, the flu, or other infections.
- Take your temperature as your doctor or nurse tells you, and whenever you feel like you may have a fever.
- Drink plenty of fluids (a minimum of eight glasses per day is recommended).
- To help with nausea and vomiting, eat small, frequent meals instead of three large meals a day. Choose foods and drinks that are at room temperature. Ask your nurse or doctor about other helpful tips and medicine that is available to help stop or lessen these symptoms.
- Keeping your pain under control is important to your well-being. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you are experiencing pain.
- Cytokine release syndrome may happen after your infusion. **If this happens, call 911 for emergency care**
- While you are getting this drug, please tell your nurse right away if you get a rash, swelling or bruising or your skin gets red, warm, itchy or painful at the site of your infusion.
- Use sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher when you are outdoors even for a short time. Cover up when you are out in the sun. Wear wide-brimmed hats, long-sleeved shirts, and pants. Keep your neck, chest, and back covered.

Food and Drug Interactions

- There are no known interactions of anti-thymocyte globulin (rabbit) with food.
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist about all other prescription medicines and over-the-counter medicines and dietary supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbs, and others) you are taking before starting this medicine as there are known drug interactions with anti-thymocyte globulin (rabbit).



Also, check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new prescription or over-the-counter medicines, or dietary supplements to make sure that there are no interactions.

When to Call the Doctor

Call your doctor or nurse if you have any of these symptoms and/or any new or unusual symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher
- Chills
- Headache that does not go away
- Easy bleeding or bruising
- Wheezing and/or trouble breathing
- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking and/or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Throwing up more than 3 times a day
- Tiredness that interferes with your daily activities
- Blurry vision or other changes in eyesight
- Signs of a urinary tract infection such as burning or pain when you pass urine, difficulty urinating, smelly and/or cloudy urine, pain in your lower abdomen or lower/side of your back.
- Pain in your abdomen that does not go away
- Signs of allergic reaction: swelling of the face, feeling like your tongue or throat are swelling, trouble breathing, rash, itching, fever, chills, feeling dizzy, and/or feeling that your heart is beating in a fast or not normal way. **If this happens, call 911 for emergency care.**
- Signs of cytokine release syndrome such as: fever, chills, or shaking chills, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, have a headache and/or have nausea or throwing up. **If this happens, call 911 for emergency care.**
- If you think you may be pregnant

Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** This drug may have harmful effects on the unborn baby. Women of child-bearing potential should use effective methods of birth control during your cancer treatment and for at least 3 months after stopping treatment. Let your doctor know right away if you think you may be pregnant.
- **Breastfeeding warning:** It is not known if this drug passes into breast milk. For this reason, women should not breastfeed during treatment because this drug could enter the breast milk and cause harm to a breastfeeding baby.
- **Fertility warning:** Fertility studies have not been done with this drug. Talk with your doctor or nurse if you plan to have children. Ask for information on sperm or egg banking.

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