

COVID-19: Patient Education after Bamlanivimab

You have been diagnosed with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) based on a positive viral test. **COVID-19** is a viral respiratory infection that can cause a range of symptoms from a cold (fever, cough) to severe illness that requires treatment in the hospital. Certain risk factors, such as being age 65 or older, obesity, or immunosuppression, have been associated with more severe illness.

What treatment did I receive?

Because you have mild to moderate symptoms and have risk factors for developing severe disease, you were treated with a one-time intravenous (IV) infusion of a **monoclonal antibody** called **bamlanivimab** (bam-la-niv-im-ab).

Monoclonal antibodies are similar to the antibodies that are naturally made by the immune system in response to an infection, except a monoclonal antibody is made in a lab so that it only binds to one substance.

Bamlanivimab works to fight SARS-COV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) by binding to it and preventing it from infecting human cells.

Antibody:

A protein made by plasma cells (a type of white blood cell) in response to an antigen (a substance that causes the body to make a specific immune response). Each antibody can bind to only one specific antigen to help destroy the antigen.

This medication is investigational, meaning it is still being studied. You received an FAQ sheet about this drug based on the “Emergency Use Authorization” (EUA) requirements.

You may not feel better right away after receiving bamlanivimab, but that does not mean it isn’t working. The main goal of the treatment is to prevent worsening symptoms that would require admission to the hospital.

Can I still get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes, but you must wait until **90 days** have passed since you received your monoclonal antibody infusion.

What side effects can occur?

Some people may have unwanted reactions to bamlanivimab. These are called side effects. These could include:

- Stomach upset
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Pain, swelling, bleeding, bruising or development of infection at the IV site

However, because this treatment is still being studied, there may be other side effects that are not yet known.

What else should I do?

- Rest and stay well-hydrated
- Ask your doctor if you can take certain over-the-counter medications (such as Tylenol) to ease your symptoms
- Stay home - quarantine at the direction of your doctor or health department
- Wash your hands often and wear a mask if you must go in public
- Monitor your symptoms closely and contact your doctor if they get worse

When should I call for help?

Call or see your primary care doctor if you have any of the symptoms below: (if you do not have a primary care doctor go to an urgent care clinic or emergency department):

- Worsening shortness of breath
- Nausea/vomiting

- Diarrhea
- New headache or muscle aches
- Bleeding, redness, pain, swelling or drainage at the IV site
- Anything else that you think may be a side effect of bamlanivimab

Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department if these occur:

- Difficulty breathing
- Swelling of your face or throat
- Chest pain or pressure
- Dizziness, sleepiness, or confusion

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