

Cemiplimab

Names	Cemiplimab (SEM ip LI mab) is the generic drug name. Libtayo® is the brand name. There may be other names for this medication.
What Is It Used For?	This drug is used to treat metastatic and locally advanced cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma, locally advanced or metastatic basal cell carcinoma, and non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) that have a high PD-L1 expression.
How Does it Work?	Cemiplimab is an immunotherapy drug. Unlike other therapy types, which kill or slow cancer cells to shrink tumors, immunotherapy works with your immune system to fight cancer. The goal of immunotherapy is to increase your body's ability to produce certain disease-fighting blood cells that attack the cancer cells to shrink the tumor now and over time.
How is Cemiplimab Given?	Your medication is given by infusion into a vein (IV) over 30 minutes. Your doctor will decide on how many treatments you will need and will do blood tests to check for side effects
What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin?	Tell your doctor if you: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have ever had an allergic reaction to cemiplimab or you have any allergies• have had an organ transplant• have an autoimmune disease such as Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, or lupus• have liver, kidney, lung, or breathing problems• take medications that weaken your immune system, such as steroids• are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breastfeeding
What Are Some Possible Side Effects?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fatigue• Itching or rash• Nausea• Diarrhea, constipation• Muscle or joint pain• Headache• Shortness of breath and cough

How Can I Manage
These Side Effects?

- ✓ **Drink 2-3 quarts of water every day unless your doctor tells you to limit your fluids.** This is even more important in the days before and after you have chemotherapy. This will help flush the medications out and help prevent dehydration and constipation. Try to drink a variety of fluids to help provide the calories, sodium (salt), and other electrolytes your body needs.
- ✓ **Fatigue:** Fatigue may occur anytime during your treatment cycle. Take rests during the day, limit your activities, and do activities at a time of day when you have a bit more energy. Learn to ask for and accept help with household and daily chores.
- ✓ **Skin care:** You may be more sensitive to sunlight, take extra care to avoid sun exposure. Use a sunblock with SPF 30 or higher that protects against both UVA and UVB rays when you are outdoors, even if it is just for a short time. Keep your neck, chest, and back covered. Wear sunglasses and protective clothes (brimmed hat, long sleeves, etc.) when in the sun. Do not use tanning beds. If you develop a rash, keep the area clean and dry and check with your doctor before using any creams or ointments on the area.
- ✓ **Nausea:** To help prevent nausea, avoid fried, spicy, and/or fatty foods on the days you receive chemo and for 2-3 days afterwards. Eating small, frequent meals may help. If you feel nauseous, try foods and drinks that are 'easy on the stomach' or made you feel better when you were sick in the past - bland foods like ginger ale, dry crackers, and toast.
- ✓ **Diarrhea:** Loperamide (Imodium®) is available over the counter. You can take 2 tablets after the first episode of diarrhea, followed by 1 tablet (2mg) after each loose stool as needed. Do not take more than 8 tablets (16mg) in a 24-hour period. Call the clinic if this does not provide relief within 24 hours.
- ✓ **Constipation:** To help prevent constipation, add high fiber foods such as fruits, vegetables, and whole grains to your diet and, if possible, keep moving throughout the day. If you do not move your bowels in 2-3 days, you will need to take a laxative. A suggested laxative is Senna-S (contains senna plus docusate), which is available over the counter. If this is ineffective after 2 days, please notify the clinic.
- ✓ **Headache, muscle aches, fever:** Check with your doctor before using any over-the-counter or herbal products for any symptom or side effect.
- ✓ **Mouth care** is very important. To prevent mouth sores, rinse your mouth with a mixture of ½ teaspoon of baking soda in 8 ounces of water after every meal and at bedtime. Brush your teeth and gums often with a soft toothbrush. Do not use alcohol, mouthwashes that contain alcohol, or tobacco products. Call us if symptoms become so severe that you have difficulty swallowing.

- ✓ **To lower the risk of infection:** Stay away from people with colds or other illnesses, wash your hands often, and do not get any kind of immunization or vaccination unless you have your doctor's permission.
- ✓ Do not start any new medications unless you check with your oncologist first.

When Should I Call the Doctor?

Call 911 or go to the nearest hospital emergency department if you have:

- signs of severe allergic reaction: Swelling in your face or hands, swelling or tingling in your tongue, face or throat; chest tightness; wheezing; trouble breathing or swallowing; dizziness, shortness of breath; heart palpitations; or hives
- confusion, agitation, hallucinations, seizures, signs of a stroke
- chest pain

Please let us know if you go to the emergency room or are admitted to the hospital.

Call your doctor immediately if you have:

- **Persistent temperature of 100.4 F (38 C) or higher**, chills, or shivering/shaking
- Sore throat or frequent or burning urination
- Any of the symptoms listed for an immune-mediated reaction (see What Else Should I Know section below)

What Else Should I Know About Cemiplimab?

Cemiplimab can cause an immune-mediated reaction. This is a rare, but serious condition that causes inflammation in different organs. During treatment, we will do blood work and monitor your side effects. Please tell us about any side effect you experience. Symptoms will depend on which organ(s) have inflammation:

- intestines (colitis): Black or sticky stools or stools with blood or mucus, diarrhea or more bowel movements than usual, change in bowel habits, unexpected weight changes, or stomach pain or tenderness
- liver: Yellowing of the skin or eyes, severe nausea or vomiting, feeling less hungry than usual, pain on the right side of your stomach area (abdomen), dark urine (tea colored), easy bruising or bleeding, or drowsiness
- skin: Rash with or without itching, sores in your mouth, your skin blisters and/or peels
- hormone glands (particularly the thyroid, pituitary, and adrenal glands): Persistent or unusual headaches, unusual sluggishness, feeling cold all the time, weight gain (or loss); changes in mood or behavior such as decreased sex drive, irritability, or forgetfulness; dizziness or fainting, fast heart beat;

increased sweating, hair loss, , constipation, deeper voice than usual, and muscle aches

- lungs: Shortness of breath, new or worse cough, and chest pain
- kidneys: Changes in the amount or color of your urine, blood in your urine, swelling in your ankles, loss of appetite
- other organs: Rash, changes in eyesight, severe muscle or joint pains