

SIDE EFFECTS TO WATCH FOR ON IMMUNOTHERAPY

Immunotherapy can cause inflammation (redness or swelling) to any organ in your body. These side effects might happen during or after taking immunotherapy. Sometimes, they can appear months or years later. The side effects below are listed in order of importance for people on immunotherapy.

Call your healthcare team if you have ANY side effects from the list below.

On weekdays from 8:30am to 4pm:
WRHN Cancer Centre:
519-749-4380

After 4pm, on a weekend or a holiday:
CareChart Digital Health:
1-877-681-3057

**If you are feeling very unwell, go to an Emergency Department near you.
Tell them you are a cancer patient on immunotherapy.**

- Diarrhea: more than **4 loose stools (poo) in 24 hours**, mucous or blood in your stools (may look dark, sticky or tarry), severe stomach pains, tenderness, or cramping
- Skin problems: itchiness, rash, blistering or peeling skin, or changes to the colour/texture of skin
- **New chest pain, or sudden shortness of breath (having a hard time breathing) - go straight to an Emergency Department near you**
- New or worsening cough
- Flu-like symptoms (chills, feeling warm, aches, and pains) that **last more than 48 hours**
- A fever of **38.3°C (101°F)** or higher (**even if this only happens once**) OR **38.0°C (100.4°F)** that lasts for **more than 1 hour**. **Note: If you are on chemotherapy follow the fever guidelines for these treatments**
- Nausea or vomiting that continues for **more than 24 hours** or **does not go away after taking your drugs for nausea**
- Eye problems: eye redness, irritation, pain, or vision changes

- Liver problems: yellow colour to eyes or skin; very dark, tea-coloured pee; bleeding or bruising more easily than normal
- Kidney problems: change in the amount or colour of pee, blood in urine, ankle swelling, lower back or side pain, less desire to eat
- Hormone changes: **extreme** tiredness (fatigue); **unexpected** weight changes; feeling weak, faint or dizzy; changes in mood or behaviour such as irritability (feeling cranky) or forgetful; hair loss; feeling sensitive to cold or heat; fast heartbeat; extreme thirst; a need to pee more than usual; or **intense or unusual** headaches
- **Allergic reaction (during or within hours of getting the drug):** sudden or severe rash; swollen lips, face or tongue; chest and/or throat tightness

Use this resource for your information only. It does not replace medical advice from your doctor or other healthcare professionals.



cancerpatiented@wrhn.ca



cancerwaterloowellington.ca

