

Lecanemab (leqembi) for Alzheimer's disease

What You Need to Know

This fact sheet will help explain the medication and what to expect

What is lecanemab and what are the treatment benefits?

Lecanemab is one of the first Alzheimer's disease medications that reduces amyloid beta proteins that build up in the brain as the disease progresses. Clinical trials demonstrated that participants on lecanemab had a modest decrease in the rate of decline in memory and functional ability versus those who received a placebo.

Lecanemab can cause serious side effects.

Amyloid-related imaging abnormalities or (ARIA) are brain changes caused by brain bleeding, brain swelling or both.

- People who carry a specific gene version called APOE-ε4 are more prone to develop ARIA as well as serious complications from ARIA.
- Certain medications, such as blood thinners or dietary supplements, may increase the risk for ARIA (brain swelling and bleeding). **Tell your healthcare provider about ALL the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements.** Be sure to also tell your healthcare provider if you take medicines to reduce blood clots from forming (antithrombotic medicines, including aspirin, and anticoagulants or blood thinners).
- Symptoms of ARIA include headaches, confusion, dizziness, visual changes, nausea, difficulty walking or seizures. Tell your healthcare provider immediately or go to the nearest hospital emergency room if you experience any of these symptoms.

Tell your healthcare provider if:

- There are changes to your medications, including over-the-counter medicines and herbal/dietary supplements.
- You have headaches, confusion, dizziness, visual changes, nausea, difficulty walking or seizures.

What are lecanemab's common side effects?

- **Infusion-related reactions** are a common side effect, which can be serious.
- Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms during lecanemab infusion: fever, flu-like symptoms (chills, body aches, feeling shaky, joint pain, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, feeling faint), low blood pressure or trouble breathing.
- **Reactions could happen up to 24 hours after the infusion.** Your physician may order medications to be given before each infusion to lower the risk or treat the symptoms. You will be monitored for up to three hours after each dose.
- **Headache** is also a common side effect. If it does not improve quickly with over-the-counter medications or you experience any other unusual symptoms (such as vision changes, confusion, imbalance), contact your physician.