

# BLINCYTO®

*Blinatumomab (rch) (blin -a -toom -oh -mab)*

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## Consumer Medicine Information

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### What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Blincyto. It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you or your child using Blincyto against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

**If you have any concerns about using this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.**

**Keep this leaflet.**

You may need to read it again.

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### What Blincyto is used for

The active ingredient in Blincyto is blinatumomab. This belongs to a group of medicines called antineoplastic agents which target cancer cells.

Blincyto is used to treat adults, adolescents, and children with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia is a cancer of the blood in which a particular type of white blood cell is growing out of control. This medicine works by enabling your immune system to attack and destroy these abnormal white blood cancer cells.

**Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why it has been prescribed for you.**

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

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### Before you are given it

***When you must not be given it***

**Do not receive Blincyto if you have an allergy to:**

- any medicine containing blinatumomab
- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet
- any medicines that are produced using Chinese Hamster Ovary cells.

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include:

- shortness of breath
- wheezing or difficulty breathing
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body
- rash, itching or hives on the skin

**Do not use it if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.**

**If you are not sure whether you should start taking this medicine, talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.**

***Before you are given it***

**Tell your doctor if you have allergies to any other medicines, foods, preservatives or dyes.**

**Tell your doctor if you have any of the following medical conditions:**

- if you have ever had neurological problems (such as seizures, memory loss, confusion, disorientation, loss of balance or difficulty in speaking)
- an active infection

**Tell your doctor if you have ever had an infusion reaction after previously using Blincyto.**

**Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, think you are pregnant, or plan to become pregnant.**

The effects of Blincyto in pregnant women are not known.

Women who are able to become pregnant should use contraception during treatment. You must also do this for 48 hours after your last treatment. Talk to your doctor or nurse about suitable methods of contraception.

**Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding or planning to breast feed.**

It is not known whether Blincyto passes into breast milk.

You should not breast-feed during treatment with Blincyto and for at least 48 hours after your last treatment.

**If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you are given Blincyto.**

***Taking other medicines***

**Tell your doctor or nurse if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.**

These medicines may be affected by Blincyto or may affect how well it works. You may need to use different amounts of your medicines, or take different medicines. Your doctor will advise you.

**Tell your doctor or nurse if you think you may need any**

## **vaccinations in the near future, including those needed to travel to other countries.**

Some vaccines must not be given within two weeks before, at the same time as or in the months after you receive treatment with Blincyto. Your doctor will check if you should have the vaccination

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## **How it is given**

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Blincyto is given to you through a vein (intravenous) continuously for 4 weeks by an infusion pump. This is followed by a 2 week break during which you will not be given the infusion. Each treatment cycle is 6 weeks. After this 2 week break, your doctor will determine if you will be given additional treatment cycles.

Your doctor or nurse will give you the infusion.

It is recommended that the first 9 days of treatment with Blincyto is given to you in a hospital or clinic. This will allow you to be under the supervision of a doctor or nurse who can check you for side effects.

Detailed instructions for your doctor, nurse and pharmacist on how to prepare Blincyto are included in the Product Information. Your doctor will determine when your Blincyto infusion bag or cassette will be changed, which may range from every day to every 4 days. The infusion rate may be faster or slower depending on how often the bag or cassette is changed.

## ***Patients greater than or equal to 45 kg body weight***

### **Your first cycle**

**For the first week of Blincyto treatment, your infusion pump will be set to deliver a dose of 9 micrograms per day. Your dose of Blincyto should be increased to 28 micrograms per day for weeks 2, 3 and 4 of your treatment depending on how you respond to treatment with Blincyto.**

### **Your next cycles**

If your doctor determines that more cycles of Blincyto should be given, your pump will be set to deliver a dose of 28 micrograms per day.

You may not be able to tell the difference between the 9 micrograms per day and 28 micrograms per day infusion bags.

## ***Patients less than 45 kg body weight***

The dose that your pump will be set to deliver is based on your weight.

### **Your first cycle**

After the first week of Blincyto treatment, the dose of Blincyto should be increased for weeks 2, 3, and 4 of your first cycle depending on how you respond to treatment with Blincyto.

### **Your next cycles**

Your doctor will determine if more cycles of Blincyto should be given.

You may not be able to tell the difference between the dose delivered during the first week of your first cycle and the increased dose delivered for the remainder of the first cycle and for the subsequent cycles.

## ***Medicines given before each treatment cycle***

Before your treatment with Blincyto, you will be given other medicines (pre-medication) to help reduce reactions to the medication and a potentially life-threatening complication known as tumour lysis syndrome, which is caused by chemical disturbances in the blood due to the breakdown of dying cancer cells. These medicines may include steroids.

## ***Infusion pump and intravenous tubing***

Your doctor or nurse will advise you on how to manage your daily activities around your infusion pump.

## ***How long to take it***

The number of treatment cycles and the dose that you will be given will depend on how well you tolerate and respond to Blincyto. Your doctor will discuss with you how long your treatment will last. Your treatment may be interrupted depending on how well you tolerate Blincyto.

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## **While you are using it**

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### ***Things you must do***

**Keep the area around the catheter clean if you have a catheter for infusion.**

This is very important, otherwise you could get an infection.

Your doctor or nurse will show you how to care for your catheter site.

**If there is a problem with the infusion pump or the pump alarm sounds, do not adjust the settings on the pump.**

Any changes to the pump settings may result in a dose that is too high or too low.

**Tell your doctor or nurse immediately:**

- **If there is a problem with the pump or if the pump alarm sounds**
- **If the infusion bag empties before the scheduled bag change**
- **if the infusion pump stops unexpectedly. Do not try to restart the pump.**

**Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist that you are taking Blincyto before you start any new medicine.**

**Tell any other doctors who treat you that you are taking this medicine.**

**Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist immediately if you experience any of the following while being treated with Blincyto:**

- seizures, difficulty in speaking or slurred speech, confusion and disorientation, or loss of balance
- chills or shivering, or feel warm.

Take your temperature as you may have a fever - these may be symptoms of an infection

- a reaction at any time during your infusion.

Symptoms may include dizziness, face swelling, difficulty breathing, wheezing, or rash.

- Severe and persistent stomach pain, with or without nausea and vomiting.

These may be symptoms of a serious and potentially fatal condition known as pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas)

The reaction may have to be treated and your dose of Blincyto may need to be adjusted.

Your doctor or nurse will monitor you for signs and symptoms of these reactions.

**You may experience a severe low white blood cell count or severe low white blood count with fever (neutropaenia or febrile neutropaenia) or elevated liver enzymes.**

Your doctor or nurse will take regular blood tests to monitor your blood counts during treatment with Blincyto.

**If you become pregnant while taking this medicine, tell your doctor immediately.**

Your doctor may need to talk to you about precautions in using vaccinations for your baby.

**Tell your doctor or nurse if you think you may need any vaccinations in the near future, including those needed to travel to other countries.**

Some vaccines must not be given within two weeks before, at the same time as or in the months after you receive treatment with Blincyto. Your doctor will check if you should have the vaccination.

**Some side effects more frequently seen in adolescents and children include:**

- Runny nose (rhinitis)
- Nose bleeds

**Things you must not do**

**Do not drive, use heavy machines, or engage in hazardous activities while you are being given Blincyto. Blincyto can cause problems such as dizziness, seizures, and confusion.**

**If you take too much (overdose)**

**Immediately telephone your doctor for advice, or go to Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital, if you think that you may have taken too much Blincyto. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.**

You may need urgent medical attention.

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## Side effects

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**Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are being given Blincyto.**

All medicines can have side effects. You may need medical attention if you get some of the side effects.

**Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.**

**Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you notice any of the following:**

- tingling skin
- rapid heart rate
- cough
- nausea, constipation, diarrhoea, stomach pain, vomiting
- rash
- back pain, pain in hands or feet, painful/swollen joints, bone pain
- swollen hands, ankles or feet

- tiredness
- weight gain

The above list includes the more common side effects of your medicine.

**Tell your doctor immediately if any of the following happen:**

- fever, swelling or chills, shortness of breath, headache and dizziness any of which may become severe
- difficulty sleeping (insomnia),
- confusion, disorientation
- headache, shaking (tremor), dizziness
- difficulty in speaking, communicating, thinking or processing thoughts, or remembering things
- seizures (convulsions)
- chest pain
- swelling of the face, lips, mouth, tongue or throat which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing.

The above list includes very serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation.

**Tell your doctor or nurse if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.**

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some people.

**Do not be alarmed by this list of side effects.**

You may not experience any of them.

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## After preparing it

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### Storage

Blincyto solution for infusion will be prepared by your pharmacist and stored in a refrigerator at 2°C to 8°C until infusion.

Once at room temperature (up to 25°C) the solution will be infused within 96 hours.

## ***Disposal***

**Your doctor, nurse or pharmacist will dispose of this medicine.**

Australian Registration Number:

38.5 microgram powder for injection vial: 232805

Blincyto® is a registered trademark of Amgen

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## **Product description**

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### ***What it looks like***

Each pack of Blincyto contains:

- 1 single-use Blincyto vial containing a sterile, preservative free, white to off-white lyophilised powder
- 1 single-use IV Solution Stabiliser vial containing sterile, preservative-free, colourless-to-slightly yellow, clear solution.

### ***Ingredients***

Active ingredient: blinatumomab.

The other ingredients in the Blincyto vial are:

- citric acid monohydrate
- trehalose dihydrate
- lysine hydrochloride
- polysorbate 80
- sodium hydroxide

Ingredients in the IV Solution Stabiliser vial are:

- citric acid monohydrate
- lysine hydrochloride
- polysorbate 80
- sodium hydroxide
- water for injection

This medicine does not contain lactose, sucrose, gluten, tartrazine or any other azo dyes.

### ***Sponsor***

Blincyto is supplied in Australia by:

Amgen Australian Pty Ltd

ABN 31 051 057 428

Level 7, 123 Epping Rd

North Ryde NSW 2113

This leaflet was prepared in July 2017.