



Infusion Access
Foundation

Preparing to Start Treatment with *Teplizumab*



Your Health, Your Decision

Shared decision-making is the key to creating a treatment plan that fits your needs, preferences, and goals. When you work closely with your healthcare provider, it becomes easier to stick to the plan, which increases the likelihood of success.

Be sure to discuss any concerns or questions before starting treatment with *teplizumab*, including safety information and potential side effects. Some people find it helpful to make a list to ensure they cover everything during the conversation.

Important Safety Information

Make a list of things to talk about with your healthcare provider, including the important safety topics below, along with any other worries or questions you may have.

Vaccines

Certain vaccines should be avoided before and up to one year after receiving *teplizumab*. Your doctor will inform you if you must catch up on any vaccines before starting treatment.

They will also guide you on which vaccines should be avoided and for how long after your treatment with *teplizumab*. Following these instructions closely is essential, as the timing is critical!



Pregnancy

Teplizumab should not be used if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant within one month of starting treatment.

If you think you might become pregnant during your treatment course, speak with your healthcare provider immediately.



Breastfeeding

There is no clear information about whether *teplizumab* enters breast milk or if it could harm a breastfed baby.

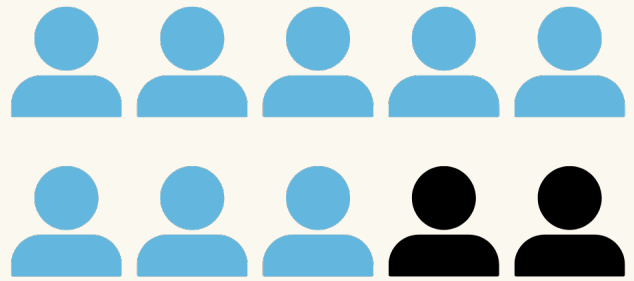
If you are breastfeeding, talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby while receiving *teplizumab*.



Possible Serious Side Effects:

White Blood Cell Changes

Teplizumab works by adjusting your immune system, which can cause a decrease in white blood cells, particularly a type called lymphocytes. This is common, occurring in about **8 out of every 10** patients during treatment.



Why does it happen?

Lymphocyte counts typically drop to their lowest point around the 5th day of the 14-day treatment.



How long does it last?

Most people start to see their lymphocyte levels recover after day 5, and they usually return to normal within 2 weeks of completing treatment.

Even though a drop in white blood cells is common with *teplizumab*, it's usually temporary. Your healthcare provider will monitor your blood counts to keep everything on track.

Cytokine Release Syndrome

Teplizumab works by interacting with your immune system. In some people, this can cause a temporary reaction called **cytokine release syndrome (CRS)**. It's not an infection and isn't contagious—it's your body's immune response to the medicine.

You may feel like you're coming down with something. Symptoms can include:

- **Fever**
- **Nausea or upset stomach**
- **Headache**
- **Muscle or joint pain**
- **Feeling tired or achy**
- **Lab changes that your care team will monitor**



When does it happen?



- Usually, during the first few days of treatment, as your dose increases.
- Symptoms often start the evening after the first infusion and improve over the next few days.
- Symptoms may show up any time during treatment and can last up to 4 weeks after your last dose.

Your healthcare provider may give you instructions or prescriptions to help manage these symptoms at home, such as pain relievers, antihistamines, and anti-nausea medications. For most people, these symptoms are mild and go away on their own, but it's still important to let your care team know when you're not feeling well or if anything feels worse than expected.

Treatment Schedule

Your treatment with *teplizumab* will last for 14 consecutive days. It's essential to attend all scheduled infusion appointments. If you need to miss an infusion, notify the infusion center immediately so they can help you get back on track and maintain your treatment schedule.

You will have blood tests (labs) done before, during, and after treatment with *teplizumab* to monitor for side effects like low white blood cell count (leukopenia) and elevated liver enzymes from CRS. Some infusion centers can draw labs when the IV is placed during your infusion. If your center doesn't do this, be sure to get your labs done as instructed by your provider to avoid disrupting your treatment schedule.

Complete Required Testing

If your provider orders lab tests to check for infections or other conditions that might affect your treatment with *teplizumab*, get them done as soon as possible. The infusion center may need these results before processing your referral and scheduling your appointment, so getting them done quickly helps avoid delays.

Find a Site of Care

When choosing a site for your infusion, it's essential to consider several factors to ensure your treatment plan is both practical and affordable. Infusions can be given at various locations, including:

- **hospital outpatient department;**
- **office-based infusion suites; and,**
- **freestanding infusion centers.**

Before deciding, check with your insurance company to understand how costs may vary across different care settings. For example, an infusion at a hospital outpatient department can cost 2-3 times more than the same treatment at an office-based or freestanding infusion center. This cost difference can significantly impact your out-of-pocket expenses, so it's a good idea to explore all your options.

To help you find a suitable infusion center, visit the Infusion Center Locator at <https://infusionaccessfoundation.org/locator>.

This tool can help you find nearby centers that meet your needs and provide the right care for your treatment.

CLEAR FILTERS

☐ Open Weekends

☐ Hide hospital-based locations

☐ Accepts Medicare

☐ Accepts patients from outside doctors

☐ Accepts Medicaid

☐ Clinical Trials

Medications Available:
Tzield

Specialty:
Any specialty

Paragon Denver Infusion Center (Montview)

6 miles
8655 E Montview Blvd
Denver, CO

Paragon Greenwood Village Infusion Center

10 miles
8775 E Orchard Rd
Greenwood Village, CO

Contact the Infusion Center

Reach out to the infusion center before your appointment to learn what to expect. This can help reduce anxiety and set clear expectations for your appointment. You may consider asking questions like:

- **How long does an appointment usually take?**
- **Will I need any pre-infusion medications or post-infusion monitoring?**
- **Can I have a friend/care partner stay with me during my appointment?**
- **Should I arrange for someone to drive me home?**
[Your provider may order additional medications to be given before your infusion that may make you too sleepy to drive yourself home]

“What should I wear to my infusion? Will I need to roll up my sleeves or remove any clothing?”

Will there be snacks, drinks, or a place to store my own food?

Explore Financial Assistance

Check the manufacturer’s website to learn about patient access programs and financial assistance available to help you afford your medications. Your prescriber’s office or infusion center can also help you find this information. If you have concerns about your ability to afford the new medicines, tell your healthcare team—they want to help!

Where can I find financial resources or support to help cover the cost of my infusion?

Find Support

Navigating treatment for type 1 diabetes can feel overwhelming at times, but you’re not alone. In addition to the support provided by your healthcare team, the manufacturer may offer programs to help patients better understand their insurance coverage, explore financial assistance options, and receive personalized support throughout treatment.

Patients may also find support through online communities and advocacy organizations related to type 1 diabetes. Groups like the **Infusion Access Foundation** can help you better understand your treatment options and connect you with resources to support your access to care. These platforms also offer shared experiences, advice, and encouragement from others undergoing similar treatments.

And remember—your healthcare team is always a valuable source of guidance and support as you begin your treatment with *teplizumab*.