

Have you experienced side effects from your immunotherapy?

Immunotherapies are a class of anti-cancer medication that includes checkpoint inhibitors. If you are receiving a checkpoint inhibitor for the treatment of cancer, you may have experienced some side effects related to the therapy. Although side effects can be common, they can be managed, which is why it is so important that you learn as much as you can about your treatment and any potential side effects you may experience.¹

How many people experience side effects?^{1,2}

Although the rate of side effects varies depending on the specific treatment, or combination of treatments, you are receiving, most people will experience some type of side effect.



What are the most-common side effects you should be aware of?¹

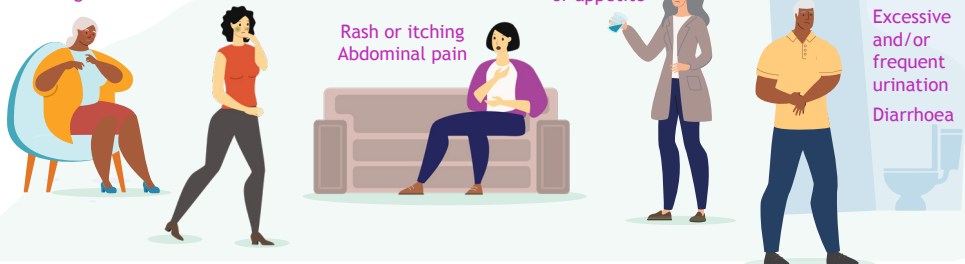
Fatigue

Nausea and vomiting

Excessive thirst or appetite

Rash or itching
Abdominal pain

Excessive and/or frequent urination
Diarrhoea



What are the less-common side effects you should be aware of?¹

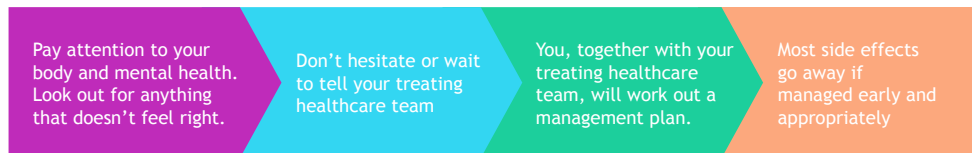
- Headache
- Confusion
- Muscle weakness or pain
- Numbness
- Painful or swollen joints
- Unexplained fever
- Tendency to bruise easily
- Loss of vision



What should you do if you experience side effects?¹

Tell your treating healthcare team straight away. Most side effects are reversible if they are detected early and treated appropriately.

If the side effect is severe or getting worse quickly and you cannot contact your healthcare team, go to your local GP or Emergency Department and let them know you are on an immunotherapy.



Generally, how severe are side effects?¹

Many side effects are mild to moderate in severity but can become more severe if left unmanaged.



When are side effects most likely to appear?¹

For most people, side effects usually appear within a couple of weeks to three months after treatment has started. Sometimes, however, they can occur after only a few days or even after treatment has finished.¹



How will side effects be managed?^{1,2}

The management or medications you receive will depend on the type of side effect and how severe it is. The goal is to treat your symptoms as soon as possible, when they are still relatively mild, without having to interrupt your cancer therapy. However, if your side effects are more severe or persistent, it may be better to interrupt or permanently stop your cancer therapy. Your treating healthcare team will talk through which options are best for you.



If you experience side effects from your checkpoint inhibitor, remember, you are not alone. The most important thing is to be aware of any changes and report them to your treating healthcare team as soon as you notice them.

This leaflet is intended as a guide only. It does not replace the advice of your treating healthcare professional. References: 1. ESMO patient guide series. Immunotherapy side effects. What are immunotherapy side effects? Available at www.esmo.org/for-patients/patient-guides/immunotherapy-side-effects. Accessed 2 December 2020. 2. Esfahani K et al. CMAJ 2019 January 14;191:E40-6. doi: 10.1503/cmaj.180870. ©2020 Bristol-Myers Squibb. BMS Medical Information: 1800 067 567. Bristol-Myers Squibb Australia Pty Ltd, ABN 33 004 333 322. 4 Nexus Court, Mulgrave, VIC 3170. ONC-AU-2100104. Date of preparation: March 2021 .