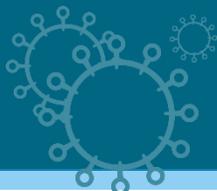


Frequently Asked Patient Questions About COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibody Treatments



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| <p>1. What is monoclonal antibody treatment for COVID-19?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After exposure to a new virus like SARS-CoV-2, your body needs time to naturally make antibodies that fight against the infection. There may be cases where your body is unable to respond and make antibodies against SARS-CoV-2. Or, it is too early in the course of infection for your body to have made enough antibodies to fight the infection. Monoclonal antibodies are man-made antibodies that act like your own antibodies in the immune system to help you fight this infection.^{1,2} |
| <p>2. What is the difference between a monoclonal antibody treatment and a vaccine?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are healthy, vaccines can help your own body protect you from the virus that causes COVID-19, but it takes time for this protection to build up. Some people cannot be vaccinated or the vaccine does not work well for them. Unlike a vaccine, monoclonal antibody treatment immediately helps you fight the virus if you get sick with COVID-19. Because monoclonal antibody treatment comes from an outside source, they can help those who still get sick after receiving the vaccine.^{1,3,4} |
| <p>3. Why is monoclonal antibody treatment being recommended for me?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some people who become sick with COVID-19 are at high risk for more severe illness, including needing to be hospitalized and possibly dying. Factors that may make you higher risk include being overweight, having certain heart or lung diseases, being diabetic, belonging to certain racial and ethnic groups, and/or certain existing medical conditions. Older age can also be a factor. Your doctor will explain the specific reason they are recommending monoclonal antibody treatment for you.¹ |
| <p>4. What is the benefit of taking monoclonal antibody treatment?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large studies have shown that monoclonal antibody treatment lowers the risk of needing to go to the hospital or dying from COVID-19. These studies have also shown that monoclonal antibody treatment can help people feel better faster and have fewer days with COVID-19 symptoms.⁵ |
| <p>5. How is a monoclonal antibody treatment given?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monoclonal antibody treatments can be administered by infusion into a vein or by injection under the skin depending on particular therapy. You will receive the treatment at a site that is able to administer the medication like an infusion center. When you arrive, you will go through a screening process before you receive the infusion. The whole appointment could take 2 to 3 hours but the infusion can take as little as 20 minutes. After the infusion is complete, the staff will watch you for about an hour to make sure you do not have an allergic reaction or other side effects. You will then be able to return home.¹ |
| <p>6. What do I need to do after I receive monoclonal antibody treatment?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You should continue to isolate, even at home, because even though you may feel better, you can still spread the virus. Your doctor will tell you when you can stop isolating. You may experience new or worsening symptoms after infusion, including fever, difficulty breathing, rapid or slow heart rate, tiredness, weakness or confusion. If these occur, contact your healthcare provider or seek immediate medical attention as some of these events have required hospitalization.¹ |
| <p>7. What are the possible side effects of a monoclonal antibody treatment?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similar to other medications given by an infusion into the vein, you may experience brief pain, bleeding, bruising, soreness, swelling, or possible infection at the site of infusion. Some people had allergic reactions. Some patients may experience worsening symptoms after infusion, including fever, difficulty breathing, rapid or slow heart rate, tiredness, weakness or confusion. If these occur contact your health provider or seek immediate medical attention as some of these events require hospitalization. Please talk to your doctor if you have any questions or concerns about possible side effects.¹ |
| <p>8. Should I get monoclonal antibody treatment as soon as possible? Or should I wait to see if my symptoms get worse?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monoclonal antibody treatment must be given within 10 days of your first COVID-19 symptoms. Receiving the treatment sooner will allow it to start working to help prevent progression of COVID-19.^{1,2,6} |
| <p>9. Are monoclonal antibody treatments effective against viral variants?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studies have shown that some monoclonal antibodies are effective against the known viral variants. Mutations of viruses may continue to occur. If you have any questions about viral variants, please ask your doctor.⁷ |

COVID-19, coronavirus disease 2019; SARS-CoV-2, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2.

1. DHHS. Combat COVID. Accessed May 5, 2021. <https://combatcovid.hhs.gov/>. 2. Taylor PC, et al. *Nat Rev Immunol*. 2021. doi:10.1038/s41577-021-00542-x. Online ahead of print. 3. Marcotte H et al. Passive immunization. In: Mestecky J et al, eds. *Mucosal Immunity*. 4th ed. Vol 2. 2015:1403-1434. 4. CDC. COVID-19. Accessed January 27, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>. 5. National Institute of Health (NIH). *Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) treatment guidelines*. Accessed May 7, 2021. <https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/>. 6. Weinreich DM et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2020. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa2035002. 7. Copin R, et al. *bioRxiv*. 2021. [preprint] doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.03.10.434834>.