



Risankizumab

Information for people with inflammatory bowel disease

PE-IBD-14

Version 1.0 · Last reviewed October 2026 · Next review October 2028

Risankizumab blocks interleukin-23, a chemical messenger that drives inflammation in the bowel. It is one of the newer treatments for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, and it targets inflammation more precisely than the older medicines.

Why you are taking it

Risankizumab is used for moderate to severe Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis when steroids, immunosuppressants or other biologics have not worked or were not tolerated. It works well in people who have already tried and lost response to an anti-TNF medicine, and it has a favourable safety profile.

How to take it

Treatment starts with three infusions into a vein, at week 0, week 4 and week 8. The dose is 600 mg for Crohn's disease, given over about an hour, and 1200 mg for ulcerative colitis, given over at least two hours. From week 12 you continue with an injection under the skin every eight weeks, which you give yourself at home: 180 mg or 360 mg, depending on your disease and how you have responded. The 360 mg dose is given through a small on-body injector – a device stuck onto the abdomen or thigh, which delivers the dose slowly and signals when it has finished. The nurse will teach you to use it. Before starting we screen for tuberculosis and viral hepatitis.

How long it takes to work

Many people notice improvement within the first four to eight weeks. We assess the full response at around week 12, before switching to the maintenance injections.

Blood tests and monitoring

We check blood tests before starting and then every three to six months. Response is judged on symptoms, calprotectin and endoscopy.

Side effects

Side effect	What it means and what to do
Upper respiratory infection – sore throat, blocked nose, cough	Common.
Headache, joint pain, tiredness	Common.
Injection site or infusion reaction	Common with the on-body injector, usually mild redness that settles in a few days.
Infection	Report fever or any infection early – see sheet PE-IBD-04 .
Reactivation of tuberculosis	The reason for screening. Report a persistent cough, night sweats or weight loss.
Liver enzyme changes	Uncommon and picked up on routine blood tests.

Important precautions

- Do not inject if you have an active infection or fever – contact your doctor first.
- Keep the injector or pen in the fridge and let it reach room temperature before use. Do not freeze it or shake it.
- Do not remove the on-body injector before it signals that the dose is complete.
- No live vaccines. Non-live vaccines are recommended – see sheet [PE-IBD-04](#).
- Keep to the eight-week schedule and note the dates on a calendar.
- For a repeat prescription, message the clinic. If there is no reply after 48 hours send the message again, and if there is still no reply, come to the clinic.

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Risankizumab is a newer medicine and the information on its use in pregnancy is more limited than for the anti-TNF medicines. It is not known to be harmful, and it may be continued if it is the treatment keeping your disease settled, but the decision should be made with us before you conceive. Tell your doctor as soon as you know you are pregnant, and arrange the deferral of the baby's live vaccines – BCG above all, given at birth in Oman – before you deliver; see sheet [PE-IBD-04](#). Discuss breastfeeding with us.

Tell your doctor straight away if

- You have a fever, or any sign of infection.
- You develop breathlessness, swelling of the face or lips, or a widespread rash.
- You have a cough lasting more than three weeks, night sweats or weight loss.
- The on-body injector fails, leaks or comes off before the dose is finished.
- Your symptoms return before the next dose is due.

Tell your doctor so they know and can bring your appointment forward. But if you feel seriously unwell, go to the Emergency Department first – do not wait for a reply.

Contact your doctor using the numbers your clinic has given you. If you are seriously unwell, or it is outside working hours, go to the Emergency Department rather than waiting for a reply. Brand names and preparations may differ – check the label on your own medicine. General safety advice is in sheet [PE-IBD-04](#). Version 1.0 · review date October 2028.

This leaflet is general information and does not replace advice from your own doctor.
