

Questions to ask your doctor:

Questions about your diagnosis

What kind of cancer do I have?
What stage is my cancer and how does that affect my treatment options?
What is the time frame for me to make decisions regarding my treatment?
If I decide to have treatment, when can I start?

What are my treatment options?

Are there any treatments that are not funded that may benefit me?
How long will I need to stay on these treatments?
How will I know my treatment is working?
What are the chances my cancer will come back after treatment?

How can Avastin help me?

How do I get Avastin if it is not available in a public hospital?
Who can I talk to regarding funding/health insurance to help me pay for Avastin?
How long will I need to be on Avastin?
How will I know if the treatment is working?
What side effects may I experience? Are there medications I can take to reduce side effects?

NOTES:



Avastin Consumer Panel

Avastin[®] (bevacizumab), 100 mg/4mL and 400 mg/16 mL vials, is a **Prescription Medicine** used to treat metastatic (spreading) colorectal, kidney, breast, brain, lung and ovarian cancers.

Do not use Avastin if: you have had an allergic reaction to Avastin, any of its ingredients or other antibodies, or if you have been coughing or spitting up blood.

Tell your doctor if: you are pregnant or breast-feeding, or plan to become pregnant or breast-feed; you have any other health problems, especially the following: inflammation of the bowel or stomach ulcers, high blood pressure, a history of blood clots or stroke, bleeding problems, bleeding in the lungs or coughing or spitting up blood, low white blood cell counts, you have/ had a fistula, or have a history of diabetes; you have had major surgery in the last 28 days or a wound that has not healed properly; you have had a blocked lung artery (pulmonary embolism); you have heart disease; you have received anthracyclines (e.g. doxorubicin) for cancer, or radiotherapy to your chest; you are 65 years of age or older, or you are taking any other medicines.

Tell your doctor immediately or go to your nearest Accident and Emergency Centre if you notice any of the following: severe body or stomach pain or cramps; severe headache; severe diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting; coughing or spitting up blood; blood clots in the veins of the legs; pain and/or swelling in the lower legs, feet or hands; severe bleeding or problems with your wounds healing after surgery; seizures; confusion; sleepiness/drowsiness or fainting; abscesses (pus-filled sores); severe infection with high fever, chills, headache, confusion and rapid breathing; feeling of numbness or tingling in feet or hands; dry mouth with thirst and/or darkened urine; increased heart rate; shortness of breath; symptoms of an allergic reaction which may include shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body, or rash, itching or hives on the skin. **Possible common side-effects may also include:** high blood pressure (symptoms include, headache, dizziness, ringing in the ears, tiredness, blurred vision); body pain, tiredness/ weakness; diarrhoea, constipation or rectal bleeding; sore mouth or mouth ulcers; loss of appetite, being thirsty; shortness of breath; runny, blocked or bleeding nose; dry, scaling or inflamed skin, change in skin colour; taste changes; blurred vision or other eye problems; dizziness; headache; frequent infections with symptoms such as fever, chills or sore throat; changes in your voice or difficulty speaking.

Avastin has risks and benefits. Ask your oncologist if Avastin is right for you. Use strictly as directed. If symptoms continue or you have side effects, see your healthcare professional. For further information on Avastin, please talk to your health professional or visit www.medsafe.govt.nz for Avastin Consumer Medicine Information.

Avastin is not funded by PHARMAC. You will need to pay the full cost of this medicine. A prescription charge and normal oncologist fees may apply.

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Roche Products (New Zealand) Limited, Auckland. Phone: 0800 656 464. www.roche.co.nz.

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