UNDERSTANDING BISPECIFIC ANTIBODIES:
What They Are and How They Work

Advances in medicine continue to transform the way diseases are treated. Innovative therapies, like bispecific antibodies, are opening new doors in the treatment of diseases such as cancer, autoimmune disorders, and other complex conditions.

WHAT IS A BISPECIFIC ANTIBODY?

Bispecific antibody therapy helps your immune system fight cancer. It works by connecting your T cells (a type of immune cell) directly to cancer cells, helping your body attack the cancer more effectively.

It's called "bispecific" because it binds to two different targets. One part attaches to cancer cells, and the other part binds to T cells, bringing them together to destroy the cancer.

Bispecific therapy is given as an infusion or subcutaneous injection. Your doctor will monitor you closely, especially at the start of treatment, to manage any side effects and make sure your body responds well.

HOW ARE THEY ADMINISTERED?

Bispecific antibodies are initially administered using step-up dosing. This is done to minimize the risk of side effects. Step-up dosing can be completed in a hospital setting or in an outpatient infusion center. Patients are at risk for serious side effects such a cytokine release syndrome (CRS) and neurological toxicities during step-up dosing and must be closely monitored by their providers. Once step-up dosing is completed, the risk of serious side effects drops significantly, and patients are continued on bispecific maintenance therapy.

SAFETY

1. Side effects from bispecific antibody therapy typically occur during the step-up dosing. When the immune system is activated to kill off cancer cells, it can activate the body's own immune cells and cause cytokine release syndrome which can manifest as fever, chills, low blood pressure, dizziness and/or shortness of breath.
2. Your provider will monitor you closely for symptoms of CRS during step-up dosing. You may be asked to take your blood pressure, temperature and pulse ox at home during this time.
3. After step-up dosing and during the maintenance therapy with bispecific antibodies, the risk of CRS significantly decreases.

BENEFITS OF BISPECIFIC ANTIBODIES

Bispecific antibodies provide innovative treatment options, especially for patients whose conditions do not respond to conventional therapies. Their ability to engage the immune system in unique ways opens new possibilities for addressing hard-to-treat diseases.

Bispecific antibodies can reduce the need for complex treatment regimens by combining two therapeutic effects in a single medication, improving patient convenience and outcomes.

By streamlining treatment approaches and reducing the use of multiple therapies, bispecific antibodies may help lower overall healthcare costs, allowing healthcare systems to allocate resources to other critical areas of patient care.

Speak to your physician if you have any questions regarding bispecific antibodies.

This fact sheet provides general information about bispecific antibody therapy and is not specific to your individual treatment plan. Your healthcare team will provide you with personalized instructions for your specific therapy, including what to expect during treatment, potential side effects, and when to seek medical attention. Always follow the guidance provided by your healthcare team.

AON
American Oncology Network