

Vegzelma (Say 'veg-ZEL-ma')

Vegzelma is a brand of bevacizumab (be-va-SIZ-yoo-mab).

Bevacizumab is used to treat some types of cancers. It works by shrinking the tumour or stopping it from getting bigger.

It can also be used to treat recurrent respiratory papillomatosis (small, wart-like growths in the throat or airways).

How is Vegzelma given?



Vegzelma is given as a drip into a vein. This is called an intravenous infusion.

The amount (dose) you are given and how often will depend on what it's being used for and how you respond. It can be every few weeks to every few months.



It's mainly given at an outpatient unit, by a nurse.



The first dose takes about 90 minutes. Other doses may be given more quickly (30 to 60 minutes).

For some people, the infusion can cause a reaction. Slowing the infusion may help with this.

Tests and monitoring



Vegzelma can increase blood pressure (BP). Your BP will be checked before each infusion and every few weeks during treatment.



Vegzelma can affect your kidneys. Your urine will be tested before and during treatment.



Wounds may take longer to heal. If you have any wounds that aren't healing or look infected, let your healthcare provider know.

If you have surgery you will need to stop Vegzlema until your wound is fully healed.





Vegzelma is a biological medicine



Biological medicines are made from living sources like bacteria, yeast, or cells from animals and plants.



Vegzelma is a biosimilar medicine

This means it's a very close, but not identical, copy of the original brand of bevacizumab.



It isn't identical because biological medicines are made from living things, which are never exactly the same.



Biosimilar medicines are sensitive to temperature and pressure changes during manufacturing. This can lead to slight differences.

These differences don't affect how the medicine works.

Note: This factsheet is a summary only. For more information, visit www.healthify.nz/Vegzelma

All medicines have some side effects

Vegzelma can cause side effects, although not everyone gets them.

Common side effects

These are usually mild. Tell your doctor if they bother you or don't go away:

- feeling very tired and weak (fatigue), headache
- runny poo (diarrhoea), feeling sick (nausea)
- minor bleeds such as nosebleeds or bleeding gums
- skin rash, itching, dryness.

Rare, serious side effects

Call **111** for an ambulance if you have signs of an allergic reaction, such as trouble breathing, skin rash, or swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or around your eyes.

Talk to your healthcare team or **Healthline on 0800 611 116** immediately if you have:

- sudden and severe stomach pain or cramping, nausea and vomiting, fever or chills, swelling and bloating
- pain, redness or swelling in a leg or arm, problems breathing, chest tightness or chest pain
- weakness or numbness in one side of your body, slurred speech or drooping of your face, mouth or eye.

Tell them you are taking Vegzelma.