



OCREVUS® SC (ocrelizumab subcutaneous): Frequently Asked Questions

You have been prescribed OCREVUS SC as treatment for your multiple sclerosis (MS).

This leaflet will explain more about your treatment and should be used in conjunction with the patient booklet provided.

This resource, developed by Roche Products (New Zealand), is intended as an educational support item for patients prescribed OCREVUS SC.

More information about OCREVUS is available at getonwithlife.co.nz or in the Consumer Medicine Information at medsafe.govt.nz

How is OCREVUS SC given?

OCREVUS SC will be injected under your skin (also known as '**subcutaneously**'), in your abdominal area (stomach area). This is different to OCREVUS IV, which is given by a slow drip into a vein (or '**intravenously**'). A doctor or nurse must give you this injection; you cannot give it to yourself.

How long does it take to receive OCREVUS SC?

The injection will take around **10 minutes**. This is less than what you are used to if you have previously received OCREVUS IV.

How often will I receive OCREVUS SC?

OCREVUS SC is given every 6 months. This schedule is the same as what you are used to if you have previously received OCREVUS IV. Unlike the IV formulation, the first dose of OCREVUS SC does not need to be given 2 weeks apart.

Do I need pre-medications before receiving OCREVUS SC?

To help reduce the risk and severity of injection reactions (IR), you will need to take pre-medications. For OCREVUS SC, these can be taken orally as a tablet shortly before your injection.

What are the most common side effects of OCREVUS SC?

The most common side effects are injection reactions, which are **typically mild to moderate** and limited to where the injection was given. Symptoms can include redness, swelling, itching, or pain, and usually occur during or within 24 hours of an injection and are most frequent with the first dose. OCREVUS (both IV and SC formulations) increases your risk of respiratory, skin, and herpes-related infections. You should tell your doctor if you have any signs of an infection—such as fever, chills, or a cough that doesn't go away, or herpes symptoms (cold sores, shingles, genital sores), or COVID-19 pneumonia.

You should always inform your doctor or nurse about any side effects you experience so they can provide support and advice.

My specialist has changed my medicine from OCREVUS IV to OCREVUS SC. Do they work the same way?

Yes, both OCREVUS SC and OCREVUS IV contain the same active substance (ocrelizumab) and can be used to treat the same forms of MS. In clinical trials involving patients with both RRMS and PPMS, the SC injection was found to be comparable to the IV infusion in terms of safety and effectiveness.

Why is the dose of OCREVUS for the SC injection different from the dose given as an IV infusion (into the vein)?

The infusion dose is 600mg, while the injection dose is 920mg. This is because the medicine enters your body and bloodstream differently with an injection compared to an infusion. The dose is adjusted to ensure it has the **same effect and provides the same benefits**.

What should I do if I have questions about OCREVUS SC?

Please speak with your doctor or nurse if you still have questions after reading this leaflet.

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet.



For more information, visit getonwithlife.co.nz or scan the QR code

This leaflet is an educational resource to help you and your whānau learn more about what to expect from treatment with OCREVUS SC. It does not take the place of individual advice from your healthcare professional.

More information about OCREVUS can be found in the Consumer Medicine Information available at medsafe.govt.nz

Ocrevus® IV (ocrelizumab) 300mg vial, and **Ocrevus® SC** (ocrelizumab 920 mg/23 mL solution for subcutaneous injection) are **Prescription Medicines** used to treat relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (RMS) and primary progressive multiple sclerosis (PPMS).

Ask your doctor if Ocrevus is right for you.

Ocrevus IV when given as an infusion into the vein and Ocrevus SC when given as an injection under the skin, are funded medicines for patients who meet defined criteria.

Ask your health professional about the cost of the medicine and other fees that may apply.

Use only as directed. If symptoms continue or you have side effects, see your healthcare professional. For more information about Ocrevus:

- talk to your health professional; or
- visit medsafe.govt.nz for Ocrevus Consumer Medicine Information; or
- visit getonwithlife.co.nz or call Roche on 0800 276 243.

Ocrevus has risks and benefits.

Possible common side effects include: *Infusion-related reactions and injections reactions:* symptoms can include itchiness, rash, hives or redness of the skin; throat irritation or pain; shortness of breath; swelling of the throat, face, lips, tongue, or other parts of the body; reactions in the area where the injection is given (Ocrevus SC only); redness on your face (flushing); low blood pressure; fever; fatigue; nausea; headache; fast heart beat *Infections:* viral infections (influenza, COVID-19); respiratory tract infections (runny nose, sneezing, sore throat, cough, fever, fatigue, weakness, shortness of breath); inflammation or infection of the sinuses - sinusitis (feeling of pressure or pain in the cheeks and forehead); inflammation or infection of the lung - bronchitis (cough, chest pain, fever); build-up of mucus in the nose and throat; infection of the stomach and bowel - gastroenteritis (nausea, vomiting, fever); eye inflammation or infection - conjunctivitis (itchy, red or sore eyes); or skin infection - cellulitis (rash, itching or hives on the skin).

Do not use Ocrevus if: you have had an allergic reaction to Ocrevus or any of the ingredients.

Tell your doctor if: have any signs and symptoms of infection, or a history of a recurring or long-term infection such as hepatitis B; you are taking or have taken medicines which affect your immune system; you or your child intend to have or have had immunisation with any vaccine; you are allergic to any other medicines or any other substances such as foods, preservatives or dyes; have any other medical conditions; you take any medicines for any other condition (including those for MS, or to treat other conditions and medicines that lower blood pressure); you are taking any other medicines, including any medicines, vitamins or supplements that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop; you have any new medical conditions or plan to take any new medicines for any other condition; you have signs and symptoms that may indicate a liver problem **Pregnancy:** tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. You should avoid using Ocrevus during the second and third trimester of pregnancy, unless advised otherwise by your doctor. **Breastfeeding:** Talk to your doctor if you are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. You should avoid breastfeeding for the first few days after birth while you are using Ocrevus

Tell your doctor immediately or go to your nearest Accident and Emergency Centre if you notice any of the following: *Infusion-related reactions, injections reactions, or allergic reactions:* symptoms can include itchy skin, rash, hives or redness of the skin; throat irritation or pain; shortness of breath; swelling of the throat, face, lips, tongue, or other parts of the body; reactions in the area where the injection is given (Ocrevus SC only); redness on your face (flushing); low blood pressure; fever; fatigue; nausea; headache; fast heart beat *Infections:* symptoms such as fever or chills; cough that does not go away; herpes (such as cold sore, shingles and genital sores); COVID-19 pneumonia **Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML):** think your multiple sclerosis is getting worse or if you or your partner or caregiver notice any new or unusual symptoms such as changes in movement or behaviour. There have been very rare reports of serious brain infection, called PML in patients receiving medicines for MS, which can cause severe disability or be life-threatening. Symptoms of PML can be similar to those of MS. **Liver problems:** symptoms such as new or worsening fatigue; loss of appetite; nausea; vomiting; pain in the right part of your abdomen; dark-coloured urine; yellowing of your skin or eyes

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Roche Products (New Zealand) Ltd. PO Box 109113, Newmarket, Auckland 1149.

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