

[Home](#)

2. Rituximab

Rituximab

Generic name: rituximab [*ri-TUX-i-mab*]**Brand names:** [Riabni](#), [Rituxan](#), [Ruxience](#), [Truxima](#)**Dosage form:** intravenous solution (10 mg/mL; abbs 10 mg/mL; arrx 10 mg/mL; pvvr 10 mg/mL)**Drug classes:** [Antirheumatics](#), [CD20 monoclonal antibodies](#)Medically reviewed by [Philip Thornton, DipPharm](#). Last updated on Mar 10, 2025.[Uses](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Side effects](#) [Interactions](#) [FAQ](#)

What is rituximab?

Rituximab belongs to a class of medications called monoclonal antibodies. It is used to treat non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) and chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and works by killing cancer cells. Certain rituximab injection brands also treat rheumatoid arthritis, granulomatosis with polyangiitis, microscopic polyangiitis, and pemphigus vulgaris by blocking the activity of the part of the immune system that may damage the joints, veins, and other blood vessels.

Rituximab is used in adults alone or with other medications to treat various types of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (a type of cancer that begins in a type of white blood cells that normally fights infection).

Rituximab is also used in adults with other medications to treat chronic lymphocytic leukemia (a type of cancer of the white blood cells).

Rituximab (Rituxan, Ruxience, Truxima) is also used in adults with methotrexate (Otrexup, Rasuvo, Xatmep, others) to treat the symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis (RA; a condition in which the body attacks its own joints, causing pain, swelling, and loss of function) in adults who have already been treated with a certain type of medication called a tumor necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitor.

Rituximab (Rituxan, Riabni, Ruxience, Truxima) is also used in adults and children 2 years of age and older along with other medications to treat granulomatosis with polyangiitis (Wegener's granulomatosis) and microscopic polyangiitis, which are conditions in which the body attacks its own veins and other blood vessels, which causes damage to organs, such as the heart and lungs.

Rituximab injection (Rituxan) is used to treat pemphigus vulgaris (a condition that causes painful blisters on the skin and the lining the mouth, nose, throat and genitals).

Warnings

Rituximab may cause a serious brain [infection](#) that can lead to disability or death. Call your doctor right away if you have problems with speech, thought, vision, or muscle movement. These symptoms may start gradually and get worse quickly.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had [hepatitis B](#). Rituximab can cause this condition to come back or get worse.

Severe skin problems can also occur during treatment with rituximab. Call your doctor if you have painful skin or mouth sores, or a severe skin rash with blistering, peeling, or pus.

Some side effects may occur during the injection or within 24 hours afterward. **Tell your caregiver right away** if you feel itchy, dizzy, weak, light-headed, short of breath, or if you have chest pain, wheezing, sudden [cough](#), or pounding heartbeats or fluttering in your chest.

Before taking this medicine

Rituximab may cause a serious brain infection that can lead to disability or death. This infection may be more likely if you have used an immunosuppressant drug in the past, or if you have received rituximab with a stem cell transplant.

To make sure rituximab is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- liver disease or hepatitis (or if you are a carrier of hepatitis B);
- an infection, including herpes, [shingles](#), cytomegalovirus, chickenpox, parvovirus, [West Nile virus](#), or hepatitis B or C;
- kidney disease;
- lung disease or a breathing disorder;
- a weak immune system (caused by disease or by using certain medicines);
- heart disease, [angina](#) (chest pain), or heart rhythm disorder; or
- if you have used rituximab in the past, or you have had a severe allergic reaction to this medicine.

You should be up-to-date on any needed immunizations before starting treatment with rituximab. Tell your doctor if you (or a child receiving rituximab) have received any vaccines within the past 4 weeks.

Do not use rituximab if you are pregnant. It could harm the unborn baby. Use effective [birth control](#) to prevent pregnancy while you are using this medicine and for at least 12 months after your last dose.

Do not breastfeed while using this medicine, and for at least 6 months after your last dose.

 [Rituximab pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

How is rituximab given?

Rituximab is given as an infusion into a vein. A healthcare provider will give you this injection.

Your doctor will perform blood tests to make sure you do not have conditions that would prevent you from safely using rituximab.

Rituximab is not given daily. Your schedule will depend on the condition being treated. Follow your doctor's dosing instructions very carefully.

Before each injection, you may be given other medications to prevent certain side effects of rituximab.

You will need frequent medical tests.

If you've ever had hepatitis B, using rituximab can cause this virus to become active or get worse. You may need frequent liver function tests while using this medicine and for several months after you stop.

If you need [surgery](#), tell the surgeon ahead of time that you are using this medicine.

 [Detailed Rituximab dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Call your doctor if you miss an appointment for your rituximab injection.

What happens if I overdose?

Since this medication is given by a healthcare professional in a medical setting, an overdose is unlikely to occur.

What should I avoid while receiving rituximab?

Do not receive a "live" vaccine while using rituximab. Live vaccines include [measles](#), mumps, [rubella](#) (MMR), rotavirus, typhoid, yellow [fever](#), varicella (chickenpox), zoster (shingles), and nasal flu ([influenza](#)) vaccine.

Rituximab side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction to rituximab**: (hives, difficult breathing, swelling in your face or throat) **or a severe skin reaction** (fever, [sore throat](#), burning eyes, skin pain, red or purple skin rash with blistering and peeling).

Some side effects may occur during the injection (or within 24 hours afterward). Tell your caregiver right away if you feel itchy, dizzy, weak, light-headed, short of breath, or if you have chest pain, wheezing, sudden cough, or pounding heartbeats or fluttering in your chest.

Rituximab may cause a serious brain infection that can lead to disability or death. Call your doctor right away if you have any of the following symptoms (which may start gradually and get worse quickly):

- confusion, memory problems, or other changes in your mental state;
- weakness on one side of your body;
- vision changes; or
- problems with speech or walking.

Call your doctor at once if you have any of these other side effects, **even if they occur several months after you receive rituximab, or after your treatment ends.**

- painful skin or mouth sores, or a severe skin rash with blistering, peeling, or pus;
- redness, warmth, or swelling of the skin;
- severe stomach pain, [vomiting](#), [constipation](#), bloody or tarry stools;
- irregular heartbeats, chest pain or pressure, pain spreading to your jaw or shoulder;
- tiredness or [jaundice](#) (yellowing of the skin or eyes);

- **signs of infection** - fever, chills, cold or flu symptoms, cough, sore throat, mouth sores, [headache](#), earache, pain or burning when you urinate; or
- **signs of tumor cell breakdown** - confusion, weakness, muscle cramps, [nausea](#), vomiting, fast or [slow heart rate](#), decreased urination, tingling in your hands and feet or around your mouth.

Common rituximab side effects may include:

- low white and red blood cells (fever, chills, body aches, pale skin, unusual tiredness, infections);
- nausea, [diarrhea](#);
- swelling in your hands or feet;
- headache, weakness;
- painful urination;
- muscle spasms;
- depressed mood; or
- [cold symptoms](#) such as stuffy nose, sneezing, sore throat.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Rituximab side effects](#) (more detail)

Related/similar drugs

Rituxan

Rituxan IV infusion is a cancer medicine that interferes with the growth and spread of cancer cells ...

Reviews & ratings

8.2 / 10

[50 Reviews](#)

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Truxima

Truxima is used to treat non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, rheumatoid ...

Reviews & ratings

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Monjuvi

Monjuvi (tafasitamab-cxix) is used for the treatment of relapsed or refractory diffuse large B-cell ...

Reviews & ratings

1 Reviews

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Kymriah

Kymriah is used to treat relapsing or refractory acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) in children and ...

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Yescarta

Yescarta is used to treat large B-cell lymphoma and follicular lymphoma, two types of non-Hodgkin ...

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Breyanzi

Breyanzi is a CAR T cell therapy for large B-cell lymphoma, CLL/SLL, follicular lymphoma, mantle ...

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Aliqopa

Aliqopa is a cancer medicine that was used to treat follicular lymphoma that had relapsed after ...

Reviews & ratings

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Xpovio

Xpovio (selinexor) is used to treat adults with multiple myeloma (MM) or relapsed/refractory ...

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Columvi

Columvi is used to treat certain types of diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) or large B-cell ...

Reviews & ratings

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Zynlonta

Zynlonta (loncastuximab tesirine) is used to treat relapsed or refractory diffuse large B-cell ...

Reviews & ratings

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What other drugs will affect rituximab?

Tell your doctor about all your other medicines, especially:

- **medicines to treat conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, or psoriasis** - [adalimumab](#), [certolizumab](#), [etanercept](#), [golimumab](#), [infliximab](#), [leflunomide](#), [methotrexate](#), [sulfasalazine](#), [tocilizumab](#), [tofacitinib](#), and others.

This list is not complete. Other drugs may interact with rituximab, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Not all possible drug interactions are listed here.

 [Rituximab drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does rituximab interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

rituximab

+

Enter a drug name

Add

What are the ingredients in rituximab?

Active ingredient: rituximab

Inactive ingredients:

Rituxan: polysorbate 80, sodium chloride, sodium citrate dihydrate, and Water for Injection, USP.

Riabni: polysorbate 80, sodium chloride, sodium citrate dihydrate, and Water for Injection, USP. Hydrochloric acid is used to adjust the buffer solution pH.

Ruxience: edetate disodium dihydrate, L-histidine, L-histidine hydrochloride monohydrate, polysorbate 80, sucrose, and Water for Injection, USP.

Truxima: polysorbate 80, sodium chloride, tri-sodium citrate dihydrate, and Water for Injection, USP.

Manufacturers

- Rituxan: Genentech, Inc., A Member of the Roche Group, 1 DNA Way, South San Francisco, CA 94080-4990
- Riabni: Amgen, Inc., One Amgen Center Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320-1799
- Ruxience: Pfizer Ireland Pharmaceuticals Cork, Ireland, P43 X336 U.S.
- Truxima: CELLTRION, Inc. 20, Academy-ro 51 beon-gil, Yeonsu-gu, Incheon, 22014 Republic of Korea

Rituximab Biosimilars

Biosimilar and interchangeable products are biological products that are highly similar to and have no clinically meaningful differences from the reference product.

Reference products

These are biological products that have already been approved by the FDA, against which biosimilar products are compared. There is 1 for rituximab.

Rituxan (rituximab) - Genentech, Inc.



Formulation type	Strength
Single-Dose Vial	100 mg/10 mL (10 mg/mL)
Single-Dose Vial	500 mg/50 mL (10 mg/mL)

View [Rituxan](#) information in detail.

Rituxan biosimilar products

Biosimilar products can only be dispensed in place of the **reference product** if the healthcare provider specifically prescribes the biosimilar product by name.

Pharmacy laws for biosimilar prescribing may vary by state

Riabni (rituximab-arrx) - Amgen Inc.



Ruxience (rituximab-pwr) - Pfizer Ireland Pharmaceuticals



Truxima (rituximab-abbs) - CELLTRION, Inc.



Popular FAQ

What is the difference between Truxima and Rituxan?



What is the success rate of Rituxan (rituximab) in patients with blood cancers?



What is the success rate of Rituxan (rituximab) in rheumatoid arthritis?



What causes infusion reactions to rituximab?



What is the difference between Rituxan and Rituxan Hycela?



More FAQ

- [What are the new drugs for rheumatoid arthritis \(RA\)?](#)
- [What are biologic drugs and how do they work?](#)
- [What biosimilars have been approved in the United States?](#)
- [Are lung nodules common after Bendeka & Rituxan therapy?](#)

[View more FAQ...](#)

References

1. [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) Riabni Product Label](#)
2. [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) Rituxan Product Label](#)
3. [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) Ruxience Product Label](#)
4. [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) Truxima Product Label](#)

More about rituximab

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Reviews \(166\)](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [Patient tips](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Support group](#)
- [Drug class: antirheumatics](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)
- [En español](#)

Patient resources

- [Rituximab-abbs advanced reading](#)
- [Rituximab-arrx \(Advanced Reading\)](#)
- [Rituximab-pwr \(Advanced Reading\)](#)

Other brands

[Rituxan](#), [Truxima](#), [Ruxience](#), [Riabni](#)

Professional resources

- [Rituximab monograph](#)

Other brands

[Rituxan](#), [Truxima](#), [Ruxience](#), [Riabni](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Follicular Lymphoma](#)
- [Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma](#)
- [Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis](#)
- [Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia](#)

Further information

Your doctor or pharmacist can provide more information about rituximab.

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and

use rituximab only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

Medical Disclaimer

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DRUG STATUS

Availability

Rx Prescription only

Pregnancy & Lactation

 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*

N/A Not a controlled drug

▼

Approval History

 Drug history at FDA

▼

User Reviews & Ratings

7.6 / 10

166 Reviews

Related News

U.S. FDA Approves Pfizer’s Adcetris Combination Regimen for the Treatment of Relapsed / Refractory Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma

Images

Rituxan (rituximab) 100 mg/10 mL solution for intravenous infusion



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