



This item is for adult patients with severe asthma who have been prescribed Nucala (mepolizumab 100mg). Please refer to the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) in the product packaging.

NUCALA

(mepolizumab)

Patient information booklet

This booklet has been developed by GSK

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YOUR NUCALA MEDICINE

This informative guide is for people who have been prescribed the NUCALA (mepolizumab), pre-filled pen or pre-filled syringe, and its aim is to help patients like you better understand your asthma diagnosis and how your medicine works.

Over the following pages, you will find useful information which will help you to understand:

- Your specific asthma diagnosis
- Your treatment
- The practicalities involved in your treatment

You will also find useful links to online sources of support on the final page of this booklet.



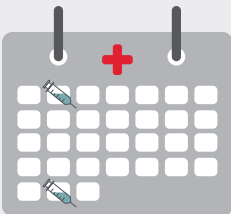
YOUR DIAGNOSIS

- What's different about my asthma?
- What does severe eosinophilic asthma mean?



YOUR NUCALA TREATMENT

- Why have I been prescribed this medicine?
- What's different about this treatment?
- Should I continue my existing medication?
- What does this treatment do?
- How this treatment can help manage your severe asthma?
- What are the side effects?



KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- What will my treatment involve?
- When can I stop this treatment?
- Nucala (mepolizumab) injection schedule
- Please ensure you read the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) at regular intervals which can be found in the product packaging

YOUR DIAGNOSIS

WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT MY ASTHMA?

- Research has shown that **not all asthma is the same**. In fact, advances in science have led doctors to realise that different types of asthma require different types of treatment



3-10% of people with asthma have **SEVERE ASTHMA**.

Like you, some of these people have been diagnosed with a particular type: **SEVERE EOSINOPHILIC ASTHMA**.
The following definitions should help you understand what this means.

WHY IS MY ASTHMA SEVERE?

- One of the ways that asthma can differ is in its **severity**. In general, patients with **'severe'** asthma find it difficult to control their daily asthma symptoms
- **'Severe'** asthma patients may continue to have asthma attacks, even when they are taking high doses of prescribed asthma medications

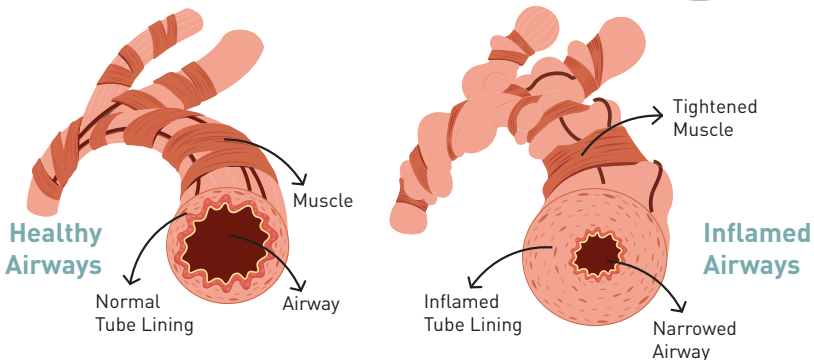
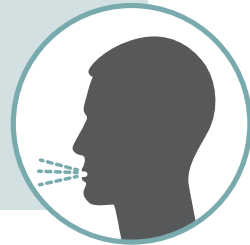
WHAT ARE EOSINOPHILS?

- Eosinophils are a type of **white blood cell** found throughout your body, which play an important role in your immune system
- Some people with severe asthma have too many eosinophils (a type of white blood cell) in the blood and lungs. This condition is called eosinophilic asthma – the type of asthma Nucala (mepolizumab) can treat

YOU MAY BE HAVING AN ASTHMA ATTACK IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ARE HAPPENING;

- Your reliever isn't helping or isn't lasting over four hours
- Your symptoms are getting worse (cough, breathlessness, wheeze or tight chest)
- You're too breathless or it's difficult to speak, eat or sleep
- Your breathing is getting faster and it feels like you can't get your breath in properly

If you think that you or someone else may be having an asthma attack, seek immediate medical attention.

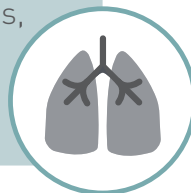


YOUR NUCALA TREATMENT

WHY HAVE I BEEN PRESCRIBED THIS MEDICATION?

NUCALA (mepolizumab) is a treatment option for people who have **severe eosinophilic asthma**. The decision to prescribe you this medication was based on an assessment of:

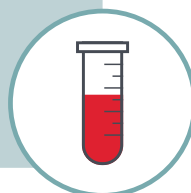
1. Your current asthma symptoms, including the number of asthma attacks



2. The types of medications you take



3. Routine blood test results

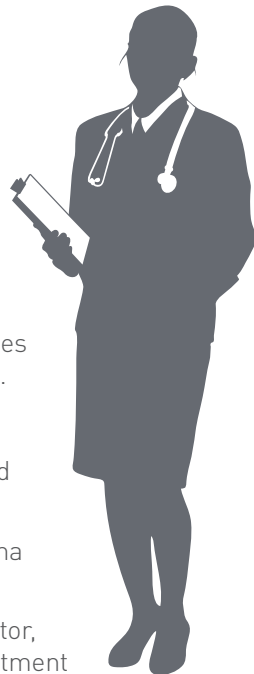


WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT MY TREATMENT?

- NUCALA (mepolizumab) is an **add-on treatment** to your other asthma medications, that is specifically suited to your type of asthma (severe eosinophilic asthma)

SHOULD I CONTINUE MY EXISTING MEDICATION?

- If you are transitioning to NUCALA from another biologic medication for asthma, please follow the guidance provided by your clinician. Your doctor will advise you on the appropriate steps
- Don't suddenly stop taking your other medicines for your asthma once you have started Nucala. These medicines (especially ones called oral corticosteroids) must be stopped gradually, under the direct supervision of your doctor and dependent on your response to Nucala
- It is recommended that all patients with asthma should have an asthma action plan
- If you have any questions, please ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist at your next clinic appointment

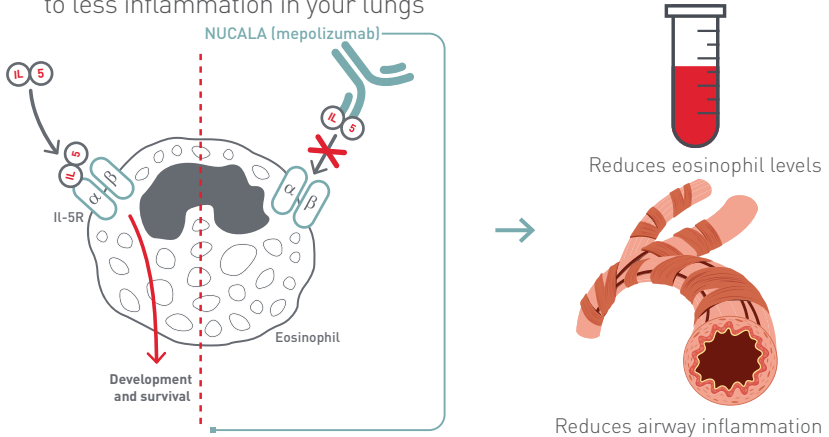


WHAT DOES NUCALA DO?

- Some people with severe asthma have too many eosinophils in the blood and lungs. This condition is called eosinophilic asthma – the type of asthma Nucala (mepolizumab) can treat. Nucala (mepolizumab) can reduce your number of asthma attacks, if you are already using medicines such as high dose inhalers, but your asthma is not well controlled by these medicines. If you are taking medicines called oral corticosteroids, Nucala (mepolizumab) can also help reduce the daily dose you need to control your asthma
- Interleukin-5 (IL-5) contributes to the development and survival of eosinophils



- Nucala (mepolizumab) blocks IL-5 binding to eosinophils and reduces the number of eosinophils in your blood and lungs, leading to less inflammation in your lungs



IT'S IMPORTANT TO NOTE

Always consult your clinician and let them know if...

- Your asthma remains uncontrolled
- Your symptoms worsen
- You are breast-feeding
- If you are allergic to mepolizumab or any of the other ingredients
- You are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby
- You have any concerns about your treatment
- You are taking any other medication

HOW THIS TREATMENT CAN HELP MANAGE YOUR SEVERE ASTHMA?

1. Clinical studies have found that for many adults with severe eosinophilic asthma like yourself, this medication may reduce the number of asthma attacks.
2. For those patients taking oral corticosteroids to control their asthma symptoms and attacks, this medication may help reduce the daily dose required. Any reduction should be carried out by your doctor.

REMEMBER...

Do not make any changes to your medication plan without consulting your doctor.

ASTHMA ACTION PLAN

- All asthma patients should have an asthma action plan. Download an asthma action plan here and fill it in with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist:
<https://www.asthmaandlung.org.uk/conditions/asthma/your-asthma-action-plan> (this site is not owned or controlled by GSK)
- Keep a written record of your progress to share with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist



WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS?

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. The side effects caused by Nucala (mepolizumab) are usually mild to moderate but can occasionally be serious.

ALLERGIC REACTIONS

Some people may have allergic or allergic-like reactions, these are known as hypersensitivity reactions.

These reactions may be common (affect up to 1 in 10 people).

They usually occur within minutes to hours after the injection, but sometimes symptoms can start up to several days later.

Allergic reaction symptoms include:

- Chest tightness, coughing and difficulty breathing
- Fainting, feeling dizzy or lightheaded (due to a drop in blood pressure)
- Swelling of eyelids, face, lips, tongue or mouth
- Hives
- Rash

If you have had a similar reaction to any injection or medicine, tell your doctor before you are given Nucala (mepolizumab).

If you experience an allergic reaction, please seek medical attention immediately.

VERY COMMON side effects, which may affect **more than 1 in every 10 people** taking NUCALA (mepolizumab), include:

- Headache

COMMON side effects, which may affect **up to 1 in 10 people** taking NUCALA (mepolizumab), include:

- Chest infection - symptoms of which may include cough and fever (high temperature)
- Fever (high temperature)
- Eczema (itchy red patches on the skin)

COMMON SIDE EFFECTS CONTINUED

- Urinary tract infection (blood in urine, painful and frequent urination, fever, pain in lower back)
- Upper abdominal pain (stomach pain or discomfort in the upper area of the stomach)
- Injection-site reaction (pain, redness, swelling, itching, and burning sensation of the skin near where the injection was given)
- Back pain
- Pharyngitis (sore throat)
- Nasal congestion (stuffy nose)

RARE side effects, which may affect **up to 1 in 1,000 people** taking NUCALA (mepolizumab), include:

- Severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis)

Please tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist immediately if you experience any of these side effects

REPORTING OF SIDE EFFECTS

If you get any side effects, or think that you are experiencing any unusual symptoms,

talk to your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist straight away.

This includes any side effects that aren't listed in the package leaflet

You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at <https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/> or search for MHRA Yellowcard in the Google Play or Apple App store. Adverse events should also be reported to GlaxoSmithKline on 0800 221 441

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

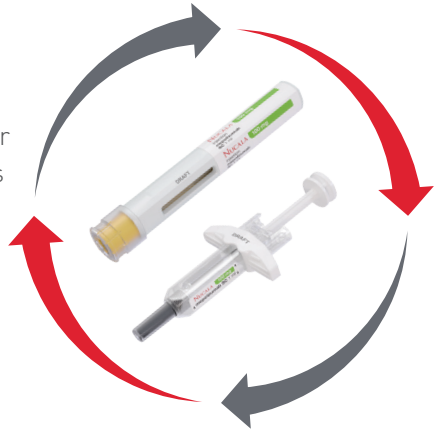


For further information on side effects, please read the patient information leaflet that comes with your medicine.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

WHEN CAN I STOP THIS TREATMENT?

- Do not stop injections of Nucala (mepolizumab) unless your clinician advises you to. Interrupting or stopping the treatment with Nucala (mepolizumab) may cause your asthma symptoms and attacks to come back
- Nucala (mepolizumab) is intended for the long-term treatment of severe asthma
- Nucala (mepolizumab) is an **add-on treatment** which means that you should continue to take your other asthma medications, as prescribed by your clinician unless advised otherwise by your clinician
- If your asthma symptoms get worse while receiving this medication **please seek medical attention**



Nucala Appointment Schedule



It is important that you have your Nucala (mepolizumab) injections every four weeks. Keep track of your injections by filling out the below schedule.

Injection 1 Date : Time:	Injection 2 Date : Time:
Injection 3 Date : Time:	Injection 4 Date : Time:
Injection 5 Date : Time:	Injection 6 Date : Time:
Injection 7 Date : Time:	Injection 8 Date : Time:
Injection 9 Date : Time:	Injection 10 Date : Time:
Injection 11 Date : Time:	Injection 12 Date : Time:

FURTHER SUPPORT

For more information about living with asthma, visit these useful links:

NHS

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/asthma/>

Asthma + Lung UK

<https://www.asthmaandlung.org.uk/>

Any general asthma questions?

Call Asthma UK's expert nurses on 0300 222 5800, Option 1
9.15am - 5pm, Monday to Friday

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