

Intralesional Interleukin 2 (IL-2) Therapy for Melanoma Skin Lesions

What intralesional interleukin 2 (IL-2) therapy is used for?

Intralesional interleukin IL-2 is used to treat melanoma skin lesions that have spread or grown from the primary melanoma site. This treatment works by giving a higher dose directly into the skin lesion, to try to shrink the lesion.

How is this medication given?

- This drug is given by injection where a needle is inserted under your skin, directly into the melanoma skin lesion.
- Your doctor may also give you some creams to put on the skin lesions, which you should apply in between injection treatment appointments. These creams also boost your immune system to fight the cancer.

Preparing for your appointment:

- **Before 2:00 p.m. the day before your IL-2 injections**
- Please call Juravinski Cancer Centre Pharmacy at 905-387-9495, ext. 64200 and leave a message to confirm your appointment. Calling ahead ensures that your medication is ready for your appointment. Medication will not be ready if you do not confirm your appointment. This will cause your treatment to be delayed and you may need to reschedule your appointment to another day.

Day of your interleukin 2 injection appointment

- Take two regular strength Tylenol tablets (650mg) 1 hour before your appointment and every 8 hours after your appointment for a period of 24 hours after each treatment
- Pick up the IL-2 injections from Juravinski Outpatient Pharmacy before checking in Clinic. Let the pharmacy staff know that you are picking up IL-2 injections
- If you find the injections painful, EMLA®, a non-prescription local anesthetic cream can be put on lesions an hour before the injections. This will help to numb the skin prior to treatment.

How will I feel after the treatment?

1. You may experience flu like symptoms for 24 to 48 hours such as:
 - fever
 - chills
 - fatigue
 - nausea/vomiting
2. The treated lesions may become red and irritated, this is normal and the lesions will gradually get better.

3. You may experience some itching in the area of the lesions, try not to scratch as this may delay further treatments if skin is broken. Itching may be treated with a non-irritating lotion such as Aveeno, Eucerin or an over-the-counter hydrocortisone cream if needed.
4. Keep the treated areas clean. You may shower and pat to dry.

Treatment schedule

IL-2 is given every week or every other week, depending on your prescribed treatment schedule. You may have up to 8 treatments in total (your doctor might change your schedule a bit depending on how you respond to treatment).

Who can I contact if I need to speak with someone after my treatment?

Call Juravinski Cancer Centre: 905-387-9495, ext. 63123 and leave a message. A health care team member will call you back within 24 hours.

Interlesional Interleukin 2 therapy process flow chart for patients

The day before treatment



Before 2:00 pm patient calls pharmacy.
at 905-387-9495, ext. 64200, to confirm your appointment.

Day of your treatment



Take 2 regular strength Tylenol Tablets (650mg).
and apply EMLA cream if required 1 hour before your treatment.



Pick up medication from pharmacy before checking in clinic.
Let the pharmacy staff know that you are picking up IL-2 injections.



Physician administers injections in clinic.



Take 2 Regular Strength Tylenol tablets (650mg)
every 8 hours for 24hours after each treatment