

Ocrevus is a biologic therapy that is indicated to treat:

- Relapsing and primary-progressive [multiple sclerosis](#)

What is Ocrevus?

Ocrevus (ocrelizumab) is an immunosuppressive drug that physicians prescribe for patients with certain kinds of [multiple sclerosis](#) (MS).

How Ocrevus works:

Ocrevus is a humanized anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody. The role of a monoclonal antibody is to find and then terminate particular cells within the body.

Ocrevus specifically targets the CD20-positive marker on B lymphocytes. Focusing exclusively on the CD20-positive marker helps the patient's other cells remain undamaged and healthy.

What is Ocrevus Used For?

Ocrevus IV infusion treatment is approved for treating certain forms of [multiple sclerosis](#).

When an individual has MS, the T and B lymphocytes perceive the body of their host as an invader. The B lymphocytes create antibodies that begin attacking the host's body.

Ocrevus Infusion Dosage and Administration

Ocrevus is delivered directly into the bloodstream via IV infusion. When [beginning Ocrevus treatment](#), patients usually receive 300 mg of Ocrevus as their first dose, returning two weeks later for their second dose of 300 mg. After that, an MS patient typically receives [Ocrevus infusions twice a year](#) (i.e., every six months).

An Ocrevus IV infusion treatment is very similar to the procedure listed below.

1. A nurse gently inserts a thin, small catheter into a vein in the patient's arm. This is the IV line.
2. The nurse connects the IV line to the tubing that is connected to the bottle or bag of Ocrevus.
3. The Ocrevus IV infusion treatment begins.

An MS Ocrevus infusion treatment takes about two hours. Following treatment, patients remain for an observation period, typically between one-two hours. During this time, patients are monitored. It is possible for a patient to experience side effects within the 24 hour timeframe following treatment.

Ocrevus Infusion Side Effects

As with all treatments, [side effects](#) are possible. If the patient experiences any of the side effects below, he or she needs to inform the nurse of these symptoms right away.

With Ocrevus IV Infusion, patients may experience:

- Nausea
- A rash
- Dizziness
- Fatigue
- A fever
- Hives
- Throat irritation
- A headache
- Shortness of breath
- A fast heartbeat
- Neurological issues (e.g., difficulty seeing, balance problems, weakness on one side of the body).

Other risks associated with Ocrevus IV Infusion include:

- An infection
- An upper or lower respiratory infection
- Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy (PML)
- The development of a cough or a wheeze

If any of these signs or symptoms develop following an IV infusion of Ocrevus, the patient needs to seek medical care right away.

How to Prepare for an Ocrevus Infusion Treatment

Patients need to speak with their physician about current or future use of medications that affect the immune system, including other treatments for multiple sclerosis. In addition, if a patient is pregnant or considering pregnancy, their physician needs to know.

Patients need to inform their physician if they are supposed to receive a vaccination or have recently had a vaccination. Furthermore, if a patient has already had hepatitis B, or is a known carrier, the doctor needs to know. The doctor may order blood work for the patient to complete before his or her Ocrevus treatment. Patients should provide their physician with a list of their vitamins, herbal supplements, prescription and non-prescription medications.