

VYVGART (Efgartigimod alfa-fcab)

What is Vyvgart?

Vyvgart is a biologic medication that can treat generalized MG in adults who are anti-acetylcholine receptor (AChR) antibody positive (more on that below). A biologic medication is made from the components of a living organism, such as living cells or proteins. Many biologic medications target the immune system. They're more complex and hard to make compared to non-biologic medications. Vyvgart is different from other medications for MG. It's specifically designed to treat the condition. Other medications used to treat MG may lessen symptoms, but they don't treat the condition itself.

How does Vyvgart work to treat MG?

Vyvgart treats MG by attaching to a protein called the neonatal Fc receptor (FcRn). Normally, FcRn plays a role in keeping antibodies in the body longer. By binding to FcRn and preventing it from working normally, Vyvgart lowers levels of AChR antibodies in the body. Because of how Vyvgart works, it's only approved for people with generalized MG who are anti-AChR antibody positive. About 85% of people with generalized MG are AChR positive. If you have generalized MG and want to find out if you are anti-AChR antibody positive, talk to your healthcare provider.

How effective is Vyvgart?

In the study, 65 people who were anti-AChR antibody positive were treated with Vyvgart. Of these people, 68% experienced a significant improvement in their symptoms for at least 4 weeks. Of the 64 people treated with placebo who were anti-AChR antibody positive, 30% had this same response. These results showed that Vyvgart was more effective than placebo at improving symptoms in people who have MG and are anti-AChR antibody positive.

What are the known side effects of Vyvgart?

The most common side effects of Vyvgart are respiratory tract infections, headaches, and urinary tract infections (UTIs). Other side effects may include tingling sensations in your arms or legs and muscle aches. Your healthcare provider will monitor you for symptoms of an allergic reaction during your infusions. If you have an allergic reaction during the infusion, your infusion will likely be stopped. After your infusion, your provider may ask you to stay for at least one hour to continue watching for an allergic reaction. If you experience an allergic reaction after going home, call your healthcare provider immediately or get emergency help.

Does Vyvgart interact with other medications?

Vyvgart hasn't been studied for drug interactions, but it may interact with other medications that attach to the FcRn.

Avoid getting a live vaccine while receiving Vyvgart infusions. Live vaccines are made with a live but weakened form of the germ they're meant to protect against. Vyvgart may interact with these vaccines, causing them not to work or making it more likely that you get sick from the vaccine. Examples of live vaccines include the MMR vaccine and the nasal flu vaccine (Flumist).