

# Questions to ask about melanoma

## Questions to ask after diagnosis

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- What type of melanoma do I have? What does this mean?
- What stage is the melanoma? Can you explain what this means?
- Has my melanoma spread? If so, how far? Are any lymph nodes involved?
- Will I need surgery?
- What are my chances of survival, based on what you know?
- Are there support services available?
- Who will be leading my treatment plan?
- Can you explain the pathology report results to me? Can I have a copy?
- Will I need other tests before we choose a treatment strategy?

## Questions to ask about treatments

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- Will I require treatment other than surgery?
- What are my treatment options?
- What are the goals of these treatments? Cure, life-extending or symptom relief?
- What is the success rate of these treatments?
- How does the treatment work? How long before I know the treatment is working?
- How soon would treatment start? How often will I get each treatment?
- Are there any side effects of my treatments? How can I manage these?
- How long will the treatments last for? Are there any clinical trials available?
- What impact will this treatment have on my quality of life?

# Questions to ask about melanoma

## Questions to ask after treatment

How well did I respond to treatment?

Will the cancer return?

Can I do anything to prevent it coming back?

What is the follow-up plan? How often will I need to see you after treatment?

Are members of my family at higher risk of developing this cancer?

## Questions to ask your insurer

Does my policy cover me for unfunded cancer treatment?

Does my policy cover the entire course of treatment? If not, which aspects of my treatment am I covered for, and for how much?

How does it work exactly?

How do I claim?

### **KEYTRUDA (pembrolizumab) 50 mg powder for infusion**

### **KEYTRUDA (pembrolizumab) 100 mg/4 mL (25 mg/mL) concentrate for solution for infusion**

KEYTRUDA is a **Prescription Only Medicine**. **Use:** KEYTRUDA is used: • in the treatment of melanoma which cannot be removed by surgery alone or when it has spread to multiple sites in the body. • in the treatment of melanoma after surgery to help prevent the cancer from coming back. • in the treatment of a kind of lung cancer called non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). • in the treatment of classical Hodgkin Lymphoma (cHL) • in the treatment of urothelial carcinoma, including bladder cancer • in the treatment of a kind of head and neck cancer called head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC). **Side effects:** Immune-mediated side effects including inflammation of the lungs, colon, liver, kidneys, pituitary gland, brain, eye, muscles, nervous system, pancreas, and heart, thyroid disorders, type 1 diabetes mellitus, adrenal insufficiency. Severe skin reactions including Steven-Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis. Severe infusion reactions including hypersensitivity and anaphylaxis. Transplant recipients: rejection of a transplanted organ, graft-versus-host-disease (in people with a bone marrow transplant using donor cells). Very common side effects include diarrhea, nausea, itching, rash, joint pain, back pain, feeling tired, cough, patches of discoloured skin, stomach pain, decreased levels of sodium in blood. Hair loss, tiredness, diarrhoea, a decrease in white-blood cell count, joint pain, and rash, were reported when given in combination with chemotherapy. You may experience more than one side effect at the same time. All medicines have risks and benefits. Talk to your doctor to see if KEYTRUDA is right for you. KEYTRUDA is a funded medicine for melanoma patients – restrictions apply. KEYTRUDA is an unfunded medicine for treatment of melanoma after surgery, NSCLC, HNSCC, cHL and urothelial carcinoma patients. Ask your health professional the cost of the medicine and any other medical fees that may apply. Use only as directed and if symptoms continue or you have side effects, see your doctor, pharmacist, or health professional. Based on data sheet prepared 29 July 2019. Marketed by: Merck Sharp & Dohme (New Zealand) Limited, Newmarket, Auckland. For additional product information, consult the Consumer Medicine Information (CMI), available on request, phone 0800 500 673 or refer to the Medsafe website [www.medsafe.govt.nz](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz).

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(pembrolizumab)