

Genentech

A Member of the Roche Group

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Genentech, Inc.
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USA

Dear Avastin Patient:

Genentech would like to inform you of a recent update regarding Avastin® (bevacizumab). On November 18th, 2011, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner notified Genentech that she is revoking the approval of Avastin's indication for the treatment of metastatic breast cancer in the United States. This means the FDA is no longer recommending Avastin be used for the treatment of breast cancer.

The FDA's action on Avastin's use for breast cancer does not impact Avastin's FDA approved uses for other cancer types in the United States. Avastin is still FDA approved for these uses in the United States.

If you are currently receiving Avastin for breast cancer, you should talk to your doctor about what the FDA's action means for you and your current treatment. You should discuss with your doctor the risks and the benefits of treatment with Avastin.

The FDA's withdrawal of approval means that some insurers may no longer pay for Avastin for breast cancer. If you are concerned about insurance coverage, please contact your insurance company's patient support line. Genentech is committed to doing everything we can to continue to support breast cancer patients who are currently benefitting from Avastin therapy and may be facing obstacles to receiving treatment. Genentech will continue to provide assistance for the use of all of our products through our patient support programs. Our patient support services include:

- Benefits Investigation (helping you establish whether your insurance company will still cover Avastin)
- Prior Authorization Support (helping your physician authorize treatment with Avastin prior to administration)
- INO Referrals (helping you identify independent, non-profit organizations to assist with paying for Avastin)
- Referrals to Genentech Access to Care Foundation (access to free Avastin for uninsured patients or patients rendered uninsured due to payer denial who meet certain financial and medical criteria)
- Trial Information Support Line (helping you find appropriate clinical trials for your treatment)

Please call Genentech at 1-888-249-4918 and you will be directed to one of our patient support specialists who can help answer your questions.

Genentech is disappointed with this outcome and we understand this may be a difficult time for you and your loved ones. Genentech's scientists, doctors and employees remain committed to advancing the scientific understanding of cancer and discovering new medicines. We also remain committed to developing therapies for breast cancer and will proceed with a new Phase III study of Avastin in combination with paclitaxel in previously untreated metastatic breast cancer.

Sincerely,



Hal Barron, M.D., FACC
Chief Medical Officer and Head, Global Product Development
Genentech

Possible Serious Side Effects

Everyone reacts differently to Avastin therapy. So it's important to know what the side effects are. Although some people may have a life-threatening side effect, most do not. Your doctor will stop treatment if any serious side effects occur. **Be sure to contact your health care team if you have symptoms related to these side effects.**

The most serious side effects (not common, but sometimes fatal):

- **Gastrointestinal (GI) perforation.** A hole that develops in your stomach or intestine. Symptoms include pain in the abdomen, nausea, vomiting, constipation, or fever
- **Wounds that don't heal.** A cut made during surgery can be slow to heal or may not fully heal. Avastin should not be used for at least 28 days before or after surgery and until surgical wounds are fully healed
- **Serious bleeding.** This includes vomiting or coughing up blood; bleeding in the stomach, brain, or spinal cord; and vaginal bleeding. If you recently coughed up blood or had serious bleeding, do not take Avastin.

Other possible serious side effects:

- **Abnormal passage in the body.** This forms from one part of the body to another and can sometimes be fatal
- **Stroke or heart problems.** These include blood clots, mini-stroke, heart attack, and chest pain. These can sometimes be fatal
- **Severe high blood pressure.** Blood pressure that severely spikes or shows signs of affecting the brain. Blood pressure should be monitored every 2 to 3 weeks while on Avastin and after stopping treatment
- **Nervous system and vision problems.** Symptoms include high blood pressure, headache, seizure, sluggishness, confusion, and blindness
- **Kidney problems.** These may be caused by too much protein in the urine and can sometimes be fatal
- **Infusion reactions.** These may include difficulty breathing, chest pain, and excessive sweating. Your doctor or nurse will monitor you for signs of infusion reactions
- **Fertility issues for women.** Avastin could cause a woman's ovaries to stop working and may impair her ability to have children

Additional Safety Information

The most common side effects of Avastin are:

- Nosebleeds
- Headache
- High blood pressure
- Inflammation of the nose
- Too much protein in the urine
- Taste change
- Dry skin
- Rectal bleeding
- Tear production disorder
- Back pain
- Inflammation of the skin

Avastin is not right for everyone. Talk to your doctor if you:

- **Are pregnant, may be pregnant, or are breast-feeding.** Avastin may harm the fetus or a child that is nursing. If you stop Avastin, you should keep using birth control for at least 6 months after your last dose before trying to become pregnant
- **Are undergoing surgery.** Don't take Avastin for at least 28 days before or after surgery and until surgical wounds are fully healed

If you have any questions about your condition or treatment, talk to your doctor.

Please see full Product Information, including **Serious Side Effects**, for additional important safety information. Note that the revised Avastin prescribing information is not yet available, but will be posted on Avastin.com as soon as it is available.