

# Living with Lupus or Lupus Nephritis?



## What is lupus?

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Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease that involves your **immune system**. Your immune system is like a bodyguard against invaders, such as viruses, bacteria, and other germs. Normally, your immune system works to fight off these invaders. But in the case of lupus, the immune system mistakenly attacks your own body's healthy tissues.

**Inflammation caused by lupus can affect many different body systems**, including your joints, skin, kidneys, blood cells, brain, heart, and lungs.

### Most common symptoms of lupus

Since lupus can affect many different parts of the body, it can cause a lot of different symptoms that may come and go. Symptoms also may vary from one patient to the next. The most common include:

- fatigue
- fever
- joint pain
- stiffness & swelling
- butterfly-shaped rash on the cheeks & bridge of the nose
- rashes elsewhere on the body
- sun sensitivity
- fingers & toes that turn white or blue when exposed to cold or during stressful periods (Raynaud's phenomenon)
- shortness of breath
- chest pain
- dry eyes
- headaches
- confusion & memory loss

## What is lupus nephritis?

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When lupus causes the immune system to attack and inflame your **kidneys**, it's called lupus nephritis. This inflammation can make your kidneys unable to properly remove waste from your blood or control the amount of fluids in your body.

Lupus nephritis most often develops within 5 years after a lupus diagnosis. **Treating lupus nephritis as early as possible can help slow down the disease progression.**

### Most common symptoms of lupus nephritis

In the early stages of lupus nephritis, symptoms may not be apparent. If you notice any of these common signs and symptoms, contact your doctor about the possibility of your lupus progressing to lupus nephritis:

- sudden & unexplained swelling, especially in the extremities (feet, ankles, legs, fingers, arms) or the eyes
- blood in the urine
- elevated blood pressure
- foamy or frothy urine
- increased need to urinate, especially at night

**Did you know that**  
**approximately 40%**  
**of people with lupus will develop lupus nephritis?**

**Have questions? Talk to your healthcare provider about your symptoms.**

These are not complete lists of all possible symptoms, and the treatment option discussed within may not help with all these symptoms.

## What is BENLYSTA?

BENLYSTA is a prescription medicine used to treat patients with active systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE or lupus) who are receiving other lupus medicines. BENLYSTA is also used to treat adult patients with active lupus nephritis (lupus-related kidney inflammation) who are receiving other lupus medicines.

Both intravenous and subcutaneous dosing of BENLYSTA are approved for adults with SLE and lupus nephritis. Intravenous dosing of BENLYSTA is approved in children aged 5 years and older with SLE.

BENLYSTA contains belimumab, which is in a group of medicines called monoclonal antibodies. Lupus is a disease of the immune system (the body system that fights infection). When given together with other medicines for lupus, BENLYSTA decreases lupus disease activity more than other lupus medicines alone.

It is not known if BENLYSTA is safe and effective in people with severe active central nervous system lupus, and it has not been studied in combination with other biologics. Use of BENLYSTA is not recommended in these situations.

## The history of BENLYSTA

**1<sup>st</sup>**  
& ONLY FDA-  
APPROVED  
treatment for  
both lupus and  
lupus nephritis

OVER  
**20**  
YEARS  
of commitment to  
lupus research and  
development

**2020** Approved for adults with active lupus nephritis

**2019** IV formulation approved for children ages 5–17 with active SLE

**2017** Self-injection approved for adults with active SLE

**2011** IV formulation approved for adults with active SLE

**BENLYSTA.com**

# “Sorry, Lupus.

We have bigger fish to fry today.”



## Important Safety Information

Do not receive BENLYSTA if you are allergic to belimumab or to any of the ingredients in BENLYSTA.

### The most important information to know about BENLYSTA

Immunosuppressive agents, including BENLYSTA, can cause serious side effects. Some of these side effects may cause death.

- **Infections:** fever, chills, pain or burning with urination, urinating often, coughing up mucus, or warm, red, or painful skin or sores on your body. Infections could be serious, leading to hospitalization or death.

Please see additional Important Safety Information continued on the following pages and accompanying Important Facts About BENLYSTA.

**Benlysta**  
(belimumab)  
Intravenous Use 120 mg/vial  
Subcutaneous Use 200 mg/mL

## Why add BENLYSTA?

Whether you have lupus or lupus nephritis, adding BENLYSTA to your treatment plan may help.



In three clinical studies of adult patients with active **lupus**, BENLYSTA\*:

**Significantly reduced lupus disease activity** mainly related to improvements in the immune system, muscles, joints, and skin.†

**Significantly reduced risk of severe flares** in two of the three studies.†

**Reduced steroid dose** by 25% or more (to a daily dose of 7.5 mg or less) during Weeks 40-52, in patients receiving 7.5 mg or higher daily doses of steroid at the start of the studies.††



In a 2-year clinical study of adult patients with active **lupus nephritis**, BENLYSTA:

**Significantly reduced kidney disease activity**, with maintained kidney function, reduced protein in the urine, and reduced need for rescue medicines.†§

**Significantly reduced risk of kidney worsening.**†

**Results may vary. Ask your doctor if adding BENLYSTA is right for you.**

\* These studies were used in the FDA approval of BENLYSTA.

† Compared to other lupus medicines alone

‡ A reduction of steroid dose was seen but was not statistically significant.

§ Rescue medicines such as steroids greater than 10 mg/day

## Important Safety Information (cont'd)

The most important information to know about BENLYSTA (cont'd)

- **Allergic (hypersensitivity) reactions:** itching, swelling of the face, lips, mouth, tongue, or throat, trouble breathing, anxiousness, low blood pressure, dizziness or fainting, headache, nausea, or skin rash. Serious allergic reactions can happen on the day of, or in the days after, receiving BENLYSTA and may cause death.
- **Mental health problems and suicide:** thoughts of suicide or dying, attempt to commit suicide, trouble sleeping (insomnia), new or worse anxiety or depression, acting on dangerous impulses, other unusual changes in your behavior or mood, or thoughts of hurting yourself or others.

Please see additional Important Safety Information continued on the following pages and accompanying Important Facts About BENLYSTA.

—Nicole, real patient compensated by GSK



## How BENLYSTA works

In many people with lupus, certain white blood cells called autoreactive B cells (cells that react against the body) stay in the body longer than they should. One of the important proteins for the growth of these B cells is called B-lymphocyte stimulator, or BLyS. BENLYSTA binds to BLyS and prevents it from stimulating B cells.

**BENLYSTA is a biologic therapy, not a steroid. It's the only FDA-approved treatment that targets BLyS, an underlying cause of lupus.**

Adding BENLYSTA to your current treatment plan may help reduce the abnormal immune system activity that can contribute to disease activity in lupus.

## Important Safety Information (cont'd)

**Before receiving BENLYSTA also discuss with your healthcare provider if you:**

- think you have an infection or have infections that keep coming back. You should not receive BENLYSTA if you have an infection unless your healthcare provider tells you to.
- have or have had mental health problems such as depression or thoughts of suicide.
- have recently received a vaccination or if you think you may need a vaccination. If you are receiving BENLYSTA, you should not receive live vaccines.
- are taking other medicines, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.
- are allergic to other medicines.
- are receiving other biologic medicines or monoclonal antibodies.
- have or have had any type of cancer.

**Please see additional Important Safety Information continued on the following pages and accompanying Important Facts About BENLYSTA.**

**BENLYSTA.com**

**“Having lupus doesn't mean I'm weak, and it doesn't define me.”**



In a clinical study in Black patients with lupus, a reduction in disease activity was seen but was not statistically significant. Ask your doctor about BENLYSTA.

**Benlysta**  
(belimumab) 

## With BENLYSTA you have a choice

Whether you have lupus or lupus nephritis, there are two different ways to take BENLYSTA:

### At Home

As a subcutaneous (SC) self-injection for adults via autoinjector (shown below) or prefilled syringe

BENLYSTA offers the independence of a self-injection in the comfort of your own home at a time that is convenient for you, after you've been trained by a healthcare provider.



### At Your Doctor's Office or Infusion Center

As an intravenous, or IV, infusion (for adults with lupus or lupus nephritis, and children aged 5 years and older with lupus)

If you prefer the convenience of receiving BENLYSTA infusions, you can do so with the comfort of having a healthcare provider monitor you during and immediately after the infusion.



**You and your doctor can decide which choice is right for you.**



## Important Safety Information (cont'd)

**Before receiving BENLYSTA also discuss with your healthcare provider if you: (cont'd)**

- have any other medical conditions.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if BENLYSTA will harm your unborn baby. You should talk to your healthcare provider about whether to prevent pregnancy while on BENLYSTA. If you choose to prevent pregnancy, you should use an effective method of birth control while receiving BENLYSTA and for at least 4 months after the final dose of BENLYSTA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you become pregnant during your treatment with BENLYSTA or if you think you may be pregnant.

**Please see additional Important Safety Information continued on the following pages and accompanying Important Facts About BENLYSTA.**

## Find out if BENLYSTA is right for you

When you're living with lupus, it's important to reduce disease activity and the risk of severe lupus flares. Managing your lupus starts with you. Ask yourself:

- 1 Have you been diagnosed with lupus and/or lupus nephritis?
- 2 Are you currently taking medications to treat your lupus and/or lupus nephritis?
- 3 Has your disease continued to be active?

**If you answered yes, talk to your doctor about adding BENLYSTA.**



—Nicole

## Talking to your doctor

Appointments sometimes last less than 15 minutes, so your time with your doctor is valuable. **Being prepared can help you make the most of it!** That's why we created Let's Talk.

Let's Talk is a guide designed to help you know what to share and practice how to say it. And, if you plan to ask about BENLYSTA, your prep is even more important.

Use Let's Talk to help you give your doctor a complete picture of your life with lupus and lupus nephritis. Then decide together if BENLYSTA is right for you.

**Start preparing for your next appointment today.**

 Get Let's Talk now at [BENLYSTA.com/talk](https://www.benlysta.com/talk)

## Important Safety Information (cont'd)

**Before receiving BENLYSTA also discuss with your healthcare provider if you: (cont'd)**

- become pregnant while receiving BENLYSTA. Talk to your healthcare provider about enrolling in the BENLYSTA Pregnancy Registry. You can enroll in this registry by calling 1-877-681-6296. The purpose of this registry is to monitor the health of you and your baby.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if BENLYSTA passes into your breast milk. You and your healthcare provider should talk about whether or not you should receive BENLYSTA and breastfeed.

**Please see additional Important Safety Information continued on the following pages and accompanying Important Facts About BENLYSTA.**

## How can BENLYSTA support you?

Starting a new treatment can bring challenges—especially as you navigate your insurance and explore your costs. Our experts at BENLYSTA Gateway are here for you. They can help you understand your health insurance coverage for BENLYSTA and find out if you qualify for the BENLYSTA Co-pay Program or the GSK Patient Assistance Program.

The **BENLYSTA Co-pay Program** helps eligible commercially insured patients with their out-of-pocket costs for BENLYSTA up to **[\$15,000]** for 12 months.\*

\*Eligibility restrictions and program maximums apply. Visit [www.GSKCopayPrograms.com](http://www.GSKCopayPrograms.com) for complete Program Terms & Conditions.


Have questions or need assistance?  
Call our experts at  
**1-877-4-BENLYSTA**  
(1-877-423-6597)

## Important Safety Information (cont'd)

### Possible side effects of BENLYSTA

- **Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML).** PML is a serious and life-threatening brain infection. PML can result in death or severe disability. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you notice any new or worsening medical problems: memory loss, trouble thinking, dizziness or loss of balance, difficulty talking or walking, or loss of vision.
- **Cancer.** Medicines that affect the immune system, including BENLYSTA, may increase your risk of certain cancers.

**Please see additional Important Safety Information continued on the following pages and accompanying Important Facts About BENLYSTA.**



In a clinical study in Black patients with lupus, a reduction in disease activity was seen but was not statistically significant. Ask your doctor about BENLYSTA.

—Stephanie (right), real patient compensated by GSK

**BENLYSTA.com**

**Benlysta**  
(belimumab) 





## Ready for more?

As you and your doctor consider BENLYSTA, it's natural to have questions.

### Get a free information kit to:

- Learn more about how BENLYSTA works
- Understand how to get your medicine
- Hear from others like you
- And more



Request your free information kit today at [BENLYSTA.com/kit](https://www.benlysta.com/kit)

## Important Safety Information (cont'd)

The most common side effects of BENLYSTA are nausea, diarrhea, fever, stuffy or runny nose and sore throat, persistent cough, trouble sleeping, leg or arm pain, depression, headache, and pain, redness, itching, or swelling at the site of injection (when given subcutaneously). These are not all the possible side effects of BENLYSTA. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

**You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA.**

Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](https://www.fda.gov/medwatch), or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

**Please see accompanying Important Facts About BENLYSTA.**

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**BenlystaCares**  
Have questions or need assistance?  
Call 1-877-4-BENLYSTA  
(1-877-423-6597)

Personalized Support Benefits & Savings  
Exclusive Resources

Whether you need treatment support or financial assistance, BENLYSTA Cares may be able to help.

**Benlysta**  
(belimumab) 

### IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT BENLYSTA

The risk information presented here is not comprehensive. To learn more, talk to your healthcare provider (HCP).

Visit [www.BENLYSTA.com](http://www.BENLYSTA.com) or call 1-877-423-6597 to get FDA-approved product labeling, including Medication Guide.

#### What is the most important information I should know about BENLYSTA?

Immunosuppressive agents, including BENLYSTA, can cause serious side effects. Some of these side effects may cause death. Tell your HCP right away if you get any of the following signs or symptoms while receiving BENLYSTA:

- **Infections.** Infections could be serious, leading to hospitalization or death. Symptoms can include: fever, chills, pain or burning with urination, urinating often, coughing up mucus, warm, red, or painful skin or sores on your body.
- **Allergic (hypersensitivity) reactions.** Serious allergic reactions can happen on the day of, or in the days after, receiving BENLYSTA and may cause death. Symptoms can include: itching, swelling of the face, lips, mouth, tongue, or throat, trouble breathing, anxiousness, low blood pressure, dizziness or fainting, headache, nausea, skin rash.
- **Mental health problems and suicide.** Symptoms can include: thoughts of suicide or dying, attempt to commit suicide, trouble sleeping, new or worse anxiety, new or worse depression, acting on dangerous impulses, other unusual changes in your behavior or mood, thoughts of hurting yourself or others.

#### What is BENLYSTA?

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It is not known if BENLYSTA is safe and effective in people with severe active central nervous system lupus.

#### Who should not use BENLYSTA?

Do not use BENLYSTA if you are allergic to belimumab or any of the ingredients in BENLYSTA.

#### What should I tell my HCP before receiving BENLYSTA?

Before you receive BENLYSTA, tell your HCP about all of your medical conditions, including if you:

- think you have an infection or have infections that keep coming back. You should not receive BENLYSTA if you have an infection unless your HCP tells you to. **See “What is the most important information I should know about BENLYSTA?”**
- have or have had mental health problems such as depression or thoughts of suicide.
- have recently received a vaccination or if you think you may need a vaccination. If you are receiving BENLYSTA, you should not receive live vaccines.
- are allergic to other medicines.
- are receiving other biologic medicines or monoclonal antibodies.
- have or have had any type of cancer.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if BENLYSTA will harm your unborn baby. You should talk to your HCP about whether to prevent pregnancy while on BENLYSTA. If you choose to prevent pregnancy, you should use an effective method of birth control while receiving BENLYSTA and for at least 4 months after the final dose of BENLYSTA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you

become pregnant during your treatment with BENLYSTA or if you think you may be pregnant.

- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if BENLYSTA passes into your breast milk. You and your HCP should talk about whether or not you should receive BENLYSTA and breastfeed.

Tell your HCP about all medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

#### What are the possible side effects of BENLYSTA?

BENLYSTA can cause serious side effects including:

- **Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML).** PML is a serious and life-threatening brain infection. Your chance of getting PML may be higher if you are treated with medicines that weaken your immune system, including BENLYSTA. PML can result in death or severe disability. Tell your HCP right away if you notice any new or worsening medical problems such as: memory loss, trouble thinking, dizziness or loss of balance, difficulty talking or walking, loss of vision.
- **Cancer.** BENLYSTA may reduce the activity of your immune system. Medicines that affect the immune system may increase your risk of certain cancers.

#### The most common side effects of

**BENLYSTA include:** nausea, diarrhea, fever, stuffy or runny nose and sore throat, persistent cough, trouble sleeping, leg or arm pain, depression, headache, and pain, redness, itching, or swelling at the site of injection.

These are not all the possible side effects of BENLYSTA. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

#### Keep BENLYSTA and all medicines out of reach of children.

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