Ustekinumab (Stelara)

This medication is used to treat CROHN’S DISEASE and ULCERATIVE COLITIS

Included in a drug class called interleukin inhibitors

Works by reducing inflammation that leads to the symptoms of Crohn’s / ulcerative colitis

DRUG ADMINISTRATION
• One-time dose with intravenous (IV) infusion, then subcutaneous injections (under the skin)
• Pre-filled syringes
• Dose and frequency as prescribed by your provider
• Store in refrigerator, protected from light

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:
• Infusion or injection site reaction
• Rare risk of infection
• Rare risk of anti-drug antibody formation

These rare risks are outweighed by potential complications of untreated inflammatory bowel disease

ADDITIONAL TESTING AND MONITORING
Prior to starting this medication, your doctor may order:
• Blood counts and liver tests
• Test for tuberculosis (blood test or skin test and/or x-ray)
• Tests for inflammation (blood and/or stool test)
• Test for hepatitis B (blood test)
• Stool tests to rule out infection
• Abdominal imaging and/or colonoscopy

While on this medication, your doctor may order:
• Blood counts and liver tests regularly to ensure safety
• Repeat tests for inflammation and abdominal imaging and/or colonoscopy to assess your response to treatment

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION
• This medication is safe to use in pregnancy and breast feeding
• Make sure you are up to date on the following vaccinations: annual flu, Pneumovax, Prevnar-13, tetanus, hepatitis A and B, and Shingrix (>50)
• Avoid LIVE vaccines while on this medication
• Financial assistance may be available
• This medication should be taken exactly as prescribed to properly treat the disease
• Please contact your provider if you notice any signs or symptoms of infection
• Do not stop or hold this medication without contacting your gastroenterologist

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
617-754-8888

Lahey Hospital & Medical Center
781-744-8740

Beth Israel Lahey Health