

INFLIXIMAB

Other names: Remicade®



Important note: The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

Why you are taking this medicine?

Infliximab is an anti-inflammatory agent used to treat Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, ankylosing spondylitis and psoriatic arthritis. These conditions are characterised by too much inflammation in the body. Infliximab helps to reduce how much inflammation is occurring, which helps to control symptoms.

When to take this medicine

- Infliximab comes as a powder to be made up by the hospital pharmacy and administered intravenously (into a vein) by a doctor or nurse. It is usually given every 2-8 weeks.
- It will take about 2 hours for you to receive your entire dose of infliximab.
- Infliximab may cause serious allergic reactions during an infusion and for several hours afterward. A doctor or nurse will monitor you during this time to be sure you are not having a serious reaction to the medicine. You may be given other medicines to treat or prevent reactions to infliximab.
- Infliximab may help control your symptoms, but it will not cure your condition.
- Your doctor will carefully monitor you to see how well infliximab works for you.
- It is important to tell your doctor or nurse how you are feeling during your treatment.

Before you are given infliximab

- Do not use infliximab if you have tuberculosis (TB), infected abscesses, another infection, a chronic infection or a history of recurrent infections.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, wishing to become pregnant or breastfeeding.
- Tell your doctor if you have had or have any chronic viral infection including HIV, hepatitis B or C, or if you are a carrier.
- Tell your doctor if you have or have ever had congestive heart failure (condition in which your heart cannot pump enough blood to other parts of the body).
- Do not have any vaccinations without talking to your doctor first.

Side Effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on your body that are unwanted. These are called *side effects*.

Tell your doctor **immediately** if you have any of these side effects during or after your infusions:

- Fever, chills or a sore throat
- Skin rash, hives or itching
- Trouble breathing or swallowing
- Irregular heartbeat
- Chest pain
- Shortness of breath
- Swelling in the face, lips, throat or feet

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any of these side effects are of a concern to you:

- Anxiety, confusion, depression
- Headache, dizziness, light-headedness
- Muscle, joint or back pain
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, or stomach pain
- Tiredness (fatigue)
- Redness, pain, or swelling where the IV is given
- Weight loss
- Painful and/or bloody urination
- Mouth ulcers
- Increase sweating

The list of side effects is **not** complete. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any side effect is of a concern to you.

Other Medicines

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicine including herbal or complementary medicines or those you can buy without a prescription.

Tell your doctor if you are receiving other treatments for:

- Psoriasis, or
- Rejection medicines in organ transplantation

Storage

Keep all medicines out of reach of children.

Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist.