

Infliximab (Remicade[®])

Infliximab

Infliximab blocks the action of a protein (TNF-alpha) that can cause your body to attack normal cells, which can lead to inflammation.

Infliximab is used to treat inflammation caused by Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis (in the digestive system), rheumatoid arthritis (in joints), psoriasis (on the skin) and ankylosing spondylitis (in the joints between vertebrae in the spine).

The medicine is not a cure, but it can help relieve symptoms.

How Is It Given?

- clear liquid by intravenous (IV) infusion into a blood vessel (The infusion takes about 2 hours.)

What Side Effects May Occur?

This is a partial list of the side effects you may have with this medicine. You may have some, all or none of those listed, or you may have other side effects not listed. Most side effects last only a short time.

Common:

- abdominal pain
- nausea/vomiting
- coughing

Less common:

- allergic reaction (itching or hives, swelling in your face or hands, swelling or tingling in your mouth or throat, chest tightness, trouble breathing)
- chest pain
- cold or flu symptoms
- joint redness, pain or swelling
- lightheadedness, fainting
- pain when urinating
- urine that is bloody or dark brown
- severe headache or sinus pain
- skin rash
- unusual bleeding, bruising or weakness
- jaundice (yellow-coloring to the eyes and skin)
- severe fatigue

Special Notes

- This medicine may cause your body to get infections more easily. To help avoid getting bacterial or viral infections, wash your hands often and avoid being around people who are sick.
- Talk with your health care provider or pharmacist before using any other medicine (prescription, over-the-counter, vitamins, herbals or natural products).

- Talk with your health care provider before getting any vaccines while taking infliximab.
- Talk with your health care provider if you have had tuberculosis (TB) or recently have been around anyone who might have TB. Your health care provider will give you a TB skin test.
- This medicine can make certain heart conditions (such as heart failure) worse. Tell your health care provider if you have any heart disorders.

When To Call Your Health Care Provider

You should call your health care provider if you have:

- problems breathing
- fever, chills or sore throat
- unusual bleeding or bruising
- blood in your urine or stool
- swollen feet or ankles
- problems urinating
- severe headache, muscle or joint pain
- jaundice (yellow-coloring to the eyes and skin)
- severe fatigue.

For more complete drug information or for questions about this medicine, ask your health care provider, nurse or pharmacist.