



# ABATACEPT Generic Name



Brand Names: Orenzia Injection

## WHAT IS IT?

Abatacept is a drug that can be administered intravenously or subcutaneously, depending on preference, to treat rheumatoid arthritis, an autoimmune condition (diseases where the body's natural defense system attacks itself). Abatacept is often used when other medications have not helped a patient. It works by blocking the activity of T-cells, a type of immune cell in the body that causes swelling and joint damage in people who have arthritis.

Abatacept is a liquid drug that comes in prefilled syringes and dosing pens. Each syringe/pen will be used only once, injecting all the solution. Syringes/pens should be disposed in a puncture-resistant container.

## DO's

- Store Abatacept injection in the refrigerator away from light; but do not freeze.
- Keep all appointments with your doctor and lab.
- Drink plenty of fluids daily
- Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medications (prescription and non-prescription) including: over-the-counter drugs and natural remedies.

## DON'Ts

- Do not use if you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or are trying to become pregnant
- Do not use if your body is fighting off an infection
- Do not use if you are having surgery, including dental surgery
- Do not receive any vaccinations without talking to your doctor first.
- Do not use if you are experiencing an allergic reaction to the drug

## POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS

Redness, itching, bruising, pain, or swelling at the injection site; headache; runny nose; sore throat; nausea; dizziness; heartburn; back pain; arm or leg pain.



## DOSING

**125 mg injected subcutaneously once every week.** Abatacept can be administered subcutaneously (in the fatty tissue just under the skin) once every week.

 **MY DOSE:** \_\_\_\_\_ mg once every week.

\_\_\_\_\_ will inject \_\_\_\_\_ mg subcutaneously \_\_\_\_\_ every week.