



INFLIXIMAB Generic Name



Brand Names: Remicade, Inflectra (*biosimilar*)

WHAT IS IT?

Infliximab is an intravenous drug used to treat certain autoimmune conditions (diseases where the body's natural defense system attacks itself), such as rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, and other inflammatory conditions. Infliximab suppresses the immune system by interfering with a biologic response mediator called tumor necrosis factor alpha, or TNF- α .

In a process called "infusion therapy" a doctor or nurse will mix the medication, that comes as a form of white powder, with sterile water to administer into a vein. Infusion therapy is administered once every 2-8 weeks, more often in the beginning of your treatment and less often as your treatment continues. It takes about 2 hours for the entire dose of infliximab to be received.

DO's

- Keep all appointments with your doctor, lab, and infusion therapy.
- 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

Stomach pain, nausea; heartburn; headache; runny nose; back pain; white patches in the mouth; vaginal itching, burning, and pain, or other signs of a yeast infection; flushing.

DOSING

3 mg/kg - 5 mg/kg taken once every 8 weeks. Infliximab is administered intravenously by a doctor or nurse every 8 weeks, after the loading dose is complete.

MY DOSE: _____ mg

Beginning on this date: _____, I will receive infusion therapy _____ times per week, every _____ weeks. After my loading dose is complete, I will receive infusion therapy _____ times per week, every _____ weeks.