

Adalimumab

HUMIRA®, AMGEVITA®, ABRILADA®, HULIO®, HYRIMOZ®,
HADLIMA®, SIMLANDI®, YUFLYMA®, IDACIO® *biosimilar



What this medication is used for

Widely used for children with Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis with Health Canada approval.



Health Canada has also approved Adalimumab for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis in adults.



How this medication works

Adalimumab works by blocking the action of a cytokine called tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNFα) which is made by the immune system and drives inflammation.



How to use this medication

All doses are given as a subcutaneous injection (under the skin).

Two loading doses are given approximately two weeks apart. A maintenance dose is given every two weeks thereafter. Some individuals may require higher doses or more frequent injections.

Although some individuals receive benefit quite quickly, it can take a little longer in others. Keep taking your medication.



Where treatment is administered

After initial teaching, most doses are administered at home. A patient support program will help facilitate teaching.



How long to use this medication

This medication will be used to get your IBD under control and keep it under control long-term. Other medications may be used with adalimumab.



Special tests done prior to starting

Tests to screen for infections including tuberculosis and immunity to various viruses.



Monitoring during treatment

Regular blood tests including drug level monitoring, stool tests, endoscopy and/or other imaging will be done to monitor for response and side effects to medications.

The amount of adalimumab in your blood can be monitored to make sure you are taking enough and not taking too much.



Side Effects

Injection site reactions such as redness, pain and itching. Tell your doctor if these are severe.

-Headaches

-Skin rash (psoriasis/ eczema)

-Medications that affect the immune system may be associated with developing infections and very rarely cancer.



When to call my doctor

Please call if:

- You want to or have already stopped the medicine
- If you are concerned about any side effects

Other reasons to call your doctor:

- If you have a fever or think you have an infection
- If you become pregnant



Vaccines



Live vaccines
- Not safe



Inactivated vaccines
- Safe