Infliximab

REMICADE®, AVSOLA®*, INFLECTRA®*, RENFLEXIS®* REMSIMA®*†
*biosimilars
†This is given subcutaneously every 2 weeks after the 3 loading doses, which are given intravenously.

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CANADIAN CHILDREN INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE NETWORK
A CH.I.L.D. Foundation Initiative

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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 Infliximab for adults with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

† Remsima is awaiting Health Canada approval in children.

How this medication works

Infliximab 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 intravenously. The first three doses are usually given at weeks 0 (zero), 2 and 6.

Subsequent doses may be given intravenously every 4 - 8 weeks. Often, individuals require an intravenous reload or shortened interval between doses.

Although some individuals receive benefit quite quickly, it can take a little longer in others. Keep taking your medication during this time and continue to take it as prescribed afterwards, even after feeling well again.

Where treatment is administered

Intravenous doses will be administered at a hospital or infusion centre.

For subcutaneous injections: after initial teaching, most doses are administered at home. A patient support program will help facilitate teaching.

Vaccines

✖ Live vaccines - Not safe

✔ Inactivated vaccines - Safe

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 infliximab.

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 infliximab in your blood can be monitored to make sure you are taking enough and not taking too much.

Side Effects

-Infusion related reactions such as shortness of breath, fever, rash, changes in blood pressure or heart rate. Medications may be given to treat and/or prevent these side effects.

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

-Headaches

-Skin rash (psoriasis/ eczema)

When I should 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.

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