

How to use this medication

What is it



Some people with arthritis have too much IL-1. IL-1 is a protein found in the body that can cause pain and swelling in the joints. Anakinra is a biologic medicine that blocks IL-1 and helps the pain and swelling of arthritis.

Given by injection



Anakinra is given by injection once a day. The normal dose is 100 mg every day.

Take it every day



Anakinra is taken every day. You, a friend, or a family member can be taught how to give the injections.

Give it some time



It may take many weeks before you know if anakinra is working. Keep taking your medication and discuss with your doctor.

What you need to do

Get regular blood tests



It is important to occasionally have your blood tested while taking anakinra. This is important to keep track of your arthritis and to make sure your blood counts are ok.

Stop if you have an infection



Anakinra can make it harder for you to fight off infections. Stop taking anakinra and call your doctor if:

1. You develop a fever
2. You think you have an infection
3. You are given antibiotics to treat an infection

Don't get pregnant or breastfeed



Anakinra has not been studied in pregnancy. Let your doctor know if you are planning to get pregnant or if you are breastfeeding.

Side effects & important facts

Injection site reaction



Anakinra can cause a reaction (redness, swelling, pain, & itching) at the injection site. Tell your doctor if these are severe. They can get better over time.

Surgery



Anakinra should be stopped before surgery. It can be restarted once things have healed and there is no sign of infection. If you are having surgery, talk to your doctor about when to stop the medicine.

Cancer



Anakinra has not been associated with development of cancer. It is not known if long-term use could increase this risk. Please discuss this with your doctor.

When should I call my doctor

Please call if you need to stop



- If you feel sick and want to stop
- If you are concerned about any side effects
- If you want to or have already stopped the medicine

Other reasons to call your doctor:



Fever or think you have an infection



If you are having surgery



If you become pregnant



If you plan to get any vaccinations



If you develop a rash

Other important information

Stopping anakinra



You can simply stop taking anakinra. You do not need to wean off it.