

# Anifrolumab

[Ani-FROL-u-mab]

Saphnelo®

<http://Rheuminfo.com>  
your rheumatology resource

## How to use this medication

### What is it



Some people with lupus have too much type 1 interferon (IFN-1). IFN-1 is a protein that plays a key role in causing some of the symptoms of lupus. Anifrolumab is a biologic medicine that blocks IFN-1 which may reduce the symptoms of lupus.

### Given by intravenous (IV) infusion



Anifrolumab is given by an intravenous infusion (IV) by a trained nurse. Each infusion takes 30-60 minutes.

### Take it once every 4 weeks



Anifrolumab is given as a 300 mg infusion once every four (4) weeks.

### Give it some time



Although some patients can feel better quite quickly after receiving the medication, in others it can take a little longer.

## What you need to do

### Get regular blood tests



Have your blood tested regularly (your doctor will tell you how often). This is important to follow the activity of your lupus in the blood.

### Don't get pregnant or breastfeed



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

### Don't take if you have an infection



Anifrolumab can make it harder for you to fight off infections. 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

### Vaccinations



Anifrolumab may increase your risk of developing shingles. Please talk to your doctor about the shingles vaccine.

## Side effects & important facts

### Infusion reaction



Anifrolumab can rarely cause an allergic reaction during the infusion.

### Surgery



Anifrolumab 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 anifrolumab.

### Cancer



Very rare cases of cancer have been seen in patients receiving anifrolumab. It is not known if anifrolumab causes cancer. Tell your doctor if you have had cancer in the past.

### Allergic Reaction



Patients have very rarely developed allergic reactions to anifrolumab. Stop taking anifrolumab if you develop hives or have an allergic reaction (feeling faint, trouble breathing or throat tightness, chest tightness, swelling of the face, eyelids, lips, mouth, tongue, or throat).

### Other rare side effects



Other rare side effects of anifrolumab include chest pain, swelling of the legs, and new or worsening anxiety or depression.

## 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



### 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



New leg swelling or chest pain