

How to use this medication

What is it



Some people with autoinflammatory syndromes have too much IL-1. IL-1 is a protein found in the body that can cause fevers, rashes, fatigue, and joint pain. Canakinumab is a biologic medicine that blocks IL-1 and helps to treat these symptoms.

Given by injection



Canakinumab is given by an injection. The normal dose is 150 to 300 mg given once every 4 to 8 weeks.

Take it every 4 to 8 weeks



Canakinumab is taken every 4 to 8 weeks. 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 canakinumab is working. Keep taking your medication and discuss with your doctor.

What you need to do

Make sure to get tuberculosis testing



All patients should have a tuberculosis skin test & chest x-ray before starting canakinumab. Talk to your doctor.

Stop if you have an infection



Canakinumab can make it harder for you to fight off infections. Stop taking canakinumab 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



Canakinumab 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



Canakinumab can cause a mild reaction (redness, swelling, & itching) at the injection site.

Surgery



Canakinumab 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.

Upper Respiratory Infection



The most common side effect to canakinumab is symptoms of a cold.

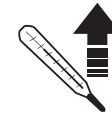
When should I call my doctor

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 canakinumab



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