

Golimumab IV

[Go-LIM-you-mab]
Simponi IV®

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

How to use this medication

What is it



Some people with arthritis have too much TNF. TNF is a protein found in the body that can cause pain and swelling in the joints. Golimumab IV is a biologic medicine that blocks TNF and helps the pain and swelling of arthritis.

Given by intravenous (IV) infusion



Golimumab IV is given by an intravenous infusion (IV) by a trained nurse. Each infusion takes about 30 minutes.

Given once every 8 weeks



You will receive an initial infusion and then a second infusion 4 weeks later. Following this you will receive infusions every 8 weeks.

Give it some time



Although some patients can feel better quite quickly in others it can take a little longer.

What you need to do

Stop if you have an infection



Golimumab IV 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

Make sure to get tuberculosis testing



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

Get occasional blood tests



It is important to occasionally have your blood tested while taking golimumab IV. This is important to keep track of your arthritis and to make sure golimumab IV isn't affecting your liver or blood counts.

Side effects & important facts

Infusion reaction



Golimumab IV can rarely cause an allergic reaction during the infusion.

Surgery



Golimumab IV 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.

Pregnancy & breastfeeding



Golimumab has been used safely in pregnancy and breastfeeding. Let your doctor know if you are planning to get pregnant or if you are breastfeeding.

Heart problems



Golimumab IV may make a condition called congestive heart failure worse. Tell your doctor if you have congestive heart failure.

Other very rare side effects



Patients have very rarely developed conditions of the nervous system (multiple sclerosis) and the immune system (lupus) while taking medications like golimumab IV.

Cancer



Golimumab IV has very rarely been associated with the development of cancer. Tell your doctor if you have had cancer in the past.

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