

# Guselkumab

[Gu-selk-YOU-mab]  
Tremfya®

[http:// Rheuminfo.com](http://Rheuminfo.com)  
your rheumatology resource

## How to use this medication

### What is it



Some people with arthritis have too much IL-23. IL-23 is a protein found in the body that can cause pain and swelling in the joints. Guselkumab is a biologic medicine that blocks IL-23 and helps the pain and swelling of arthritis.

### Given by injection



Guselkumab is given by injection once every 8 weeks. The normal dose is 100 mg.

### Take it once every 8 weeks



You will receive an injection on week 0, week 4, and then every 8 weeks. You, a friend, or a family member can be taught how to give the injections.

### Give it some time



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

## What you need to do

### Stop if you have an infection



Guselkumab 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 guselkumab. Talk to your doctor.

### Get occasional blood tests



It is important to occasionally have your blood tested while taking guselkumab. This is important to keep track of your arthritis.

## Side effects & important facts

### Injection site reaction



Guselkumab can rarely cause a reaction (redness, pain, & itching) at the injection site. Tell your doctor if these are severe.

### Headache



Guselkumab can rarely cause a headache.

### Nausea & Diarrhea



Guselkumab can rarely cause nausea or diarrhea.

### Surgery



Guselkumab 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



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

### Allergic Reaction



Patients have very rarely developed allergic reactions to guselkumab. Stop taking guselkumab 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).

## 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 have an allergic reaction

## Other important information

### Stopping guselkumab



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