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. infliximab (Remsima) is a biologic medicine that blocks TNF and helps the pain and swelling of arthritis.

Given by intravenous infusion

Infliximab (Remsima) is given by intravenous infusion once every 6-8 weeks. The normal dose is based on your body weight.

Given once every 6-8 weeks

You will receive an infusion on week 0, week 2, and then week 6. Following this you will receive infusions every 6 to 8 weeks.

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

Don’t take if you have an infection

Infliximab (Remsima) 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 infliximab (Remsima). Talk to your doctor.

Get occasional blood tests

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

Side effects & important facts

Infusion reaction

Infliximab (Remsima) can rarely cause an allergic reaction during the infusion.

Surgery

Infliximab (Remsima) 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

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

Heart problems

Infliximab (Remsima) may make a condition called congestive heart failure (CHF) worse. Tell your doctor if you have CHF.

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 infliximab (Remsima).

Cancer

Infliximab (Remsima) has very rarely been associated with developing 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

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