

How to use this medication

What is it



Some people with arthritis have too much IL-17. IL-17 is a protein found in the body that can cause pain and swelling in the joints. Secukinumab is a biologic medicine that blocks IL-17 and helps the pain and swelling of arthritis.

Given by injection



Secukinumab is given by injection. The normal dose is 150-300 mg once a month.

Take it once a month



You will receive injections weekly for the first 5 weeks. Following this you will receive an injection every month. You, a friend, or a family member can be taught how to give the injection.

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



Secukinumab can make it harder for you to fight off infections. Stop taking secukinumab 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

Make sure to get tuberculosis testing



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

Get occasional blood tests



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

Side effects & important facts

Inflammatory bowel disease



Secukinumab can flare or un-mask inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's or ulcerative colitis). Tell your doctor if you develop diarrhea while taking secukinumab.

Surgery



Secukinumab 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



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

Upper Respiratory Infection



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

Allergic Reaction



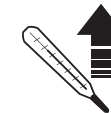
Patients have very rarely developed allergic reactions to secukinumab. Stop taking secukinumab if you develop hives or have an allergic reaction (feeling faint, trouble breathing or throat tightness, chest tightness, swelling of the face, eyelids, lips, mouth, tongue, or throat)

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 develop a rash or allergy

Other important information

Stopping secukinumab



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