

Medication Names

Prototype Med	etanercept (Enbrel)
Other Meds	infliximab (Remicade) adalimumab (Humira)

Drug Class: Antirheumatic

Action: inactivation of tumor necrosis factor resulting in reduced inflammation and immunosuppression, tumor necrosis antagonists.

Therapeutic Use

DMARDs are drugs that treat and decrease joint inflammation, and subsequently prevent joint damage

Biologic DMARD drugs are tumor necrosis factor antagonists—drugs that bind with naturally occurring tumor necrosis factor, preventing it from attaching to cells on the surface of synovial tissue in the joints

Adverse Drug Reactions

Increased susceptibility to infections

Dizziness, Abdominal Pain

Pharyngitis

Psoriasis

Upper Respiratory Infections

Rare occurrence of severe allergic reactions such as Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS), toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), and erythema multiforme

Local injection site reaction

Heart failure

Reactivation of latent tuberculosis (TB)

Nursing Interventions

Assess for infection prior to each injection.

Monitor for signs and symptoms of infection during therapy

Monitor for skin reactions

Monitor for redness, warmth, and itching at the injection site

Monitor clients for signs and symptoms of heart failure (cough, shortness of breath, elevated blood pressure and heart rate, pink sputum)

Administer TB test prior to starting therapy

Drug Administration

Administer by subcutaneous injection.

Give once weekly

Monitor site for redness, pain, and swelling after administration

Patient Education

Report signs and symptoms of infection immediately.

Avoid immunizations, especially those that contain live vaccines

Report skin rashes immediately

Advise clients to report reactions that do not subside within a few days

Report signs and symptoms of heart failure (cough, shortness of breath, elevated blood pressure and heart rate, pink sputum) immediately

Report shortness of breath or new production of sputum

Contraindications

Active infection

Hematologic disease

Malignancy

Precautions

Autoimmune diseases

Live Vaccines

Heart failure

Interactions

Administration with chemotherapeutic drugs may cause bone marrow suppression

Should not be given with anakinra (Kineret) due to increased risk of infections

Live Vaccines

