

# Things to Consider?

Avoid these medicines if you...

 : have liver disease

 : have TB (you may need to be tested)

While taking these medicines you should...

 : **not** become pregnant

 : **not** drink alcohol

 : **not** receive *live* vaccines

Medications require blood test monitoring.



Leflunomide  
(Arava®)



Sulfasalazine  
(Azulfidine®)



Methotrexate  
(Rheumatrex® or Trexall®)



Etanercept  
(Enbrel®)

Adalimumab  
(Humira®)

Anakinra  
(Kineret®)

Canakinumab  
(Ilaris®)



Abatacept  
(Orencia®)

Infliximab  
(Remicade®)

Rituximab  
(Rituxan®)

Tocilizumab  
(Actemra®)



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# Side Effects?

There is no way to predict which, if any, of these side effects you will experience.



Leflunomide  
(Arava®)

Sulfasalazine  
(Azulfidine®)

## Common:

- stomach upset
- diarrhea
- headache
- cold symptoms

## Uncommon:

- low blood counts
- severe liver injury (Leflunomide only)
- severe skin reaction (Sulfasalazine only)



Methotrexate  
(Rheumatrex® or Trexall®)

- mouth sores
- nausea
- stomach upset
- headache

- abnormal liver test
- low blood counts
- lung inflammation



Etanercept  
(Enbrel®)

Anakinra  
(Kineret®)

Adalimumab  
(Humira®)

Canakinumab  
(Ilaris®)

- redness or soreness where needle enters skin
- common cold
- sinus infection
- stomach upset
- headache
- itchy or allergic rash

- TB may come back
- serious infection that needs antibiotic
- low blood counts
- development of autoantibodies
- muscle inflammation
- cancers like lymphoma



Abatacept  
(Orencia®)

Rituximab  
(Rituxan®)

Infliximab  
(Remicade®)

Tocilizumab  
(Actemra®)

- common cold
- sinus or throat infection
- stomach upset
- headache

- TB may come back
- serious infection that needs antibiotic
- low blood counts
- development of autoantibodies
- cancers like lymphoma
- severe infusion reaction (allergic reaction)

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# How Soon?

These medicines do not work right away.

In general, these medicines begin to work between 2 and 12 weeks.

There are ways to manage symptoms until these medicines start working.



Leflunomide  
(Arava®)

**4-8  
weeks**

Sulfasalazine  
(Azulfidine®)

**4-12  
weeks**



Methotrexate  
(Rheumatrex® or Trexall®)

**4-6  
weeks**



Etanercept  
(Enbrel®)

**2-4  
weeks**

Adalimumab  
(Humira®)

**2-4  
weeks**

Anakinra  
(Kineret®)

**1-3  
weeks**

Canakinumab  
(Ilaris®)

**1-3  
weeks**



Abatacept  
(Orencia®)

**2-12  
weeks**

Infliximab  
(Remicade®)

**2-4  
weeks**

Rituximab  
(Rituxan®)

**2-4  
weeks**

Tocilizumab  
(Actemra®)

**2-4  
weeks**

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# Cost?

What you pay will depend on your insurance.

Patient assistance programs may be available.



Leflunomide  
(Arava®)

Sulfasalazine  
(Azulfidine®)

————— \$ —————



Methotrexate  
(Rheumatrex® or Trexall®)



— \$ —



Etanercept  
(Enbrel®)

Adalimumab  
(Humira®)

Anakinra  
(Kineret®)

Canakinumab  
(Ilaris®)

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Abatacept  
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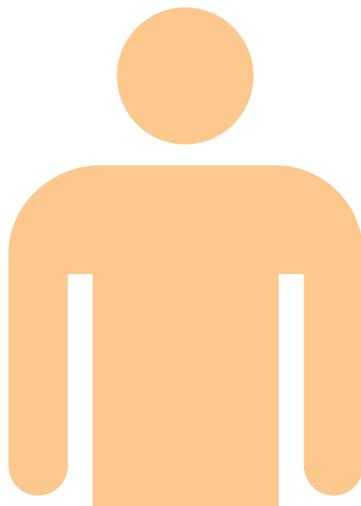
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# How Long?

Stopping or decreasing the medicine may be considered after the disease is well controlled.



- How long has the disease been under control?
- Are there bothersome side effects?
- How often does arthritis remain well controlled after stopping?
- What are the treatment options if the arthritis comes back or flares?

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