Things to Consider?

How Often?

Side Effects?

How Soon?

Cost?

How Long?

What is important to you about arthritis medicines?
Avoid these medicines if you...
- have liver disease
- TB: 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.

Things to Consider?

Leflunomide (Arava®)
Sulfasalazine (Azulfidine®)

Methotrexate (Rheumatrex® or Trexall®)

Etanercept (Enbrel®)
Adalimumab (Humira®)
Anakinra (Kineret®)
Canakinumab (Ilaris®)

Abatacept (Orencia®)
Infliximab (Remicade®)
Rituximab (Rituxan®)
Tocilizumab (Actemra®)

Pick another topic
Medications differ on how often they need to be given.

**How Often?**

**Leflunomide (Arava®)**
- 1x day

**Sulfasalazine (Azulfidine®)**
- 2x day

**Methotrexate (Rheumatrex® or Trexall®)**
- 1x week

**Etanercept (Enbrel®)**
- 1-2x week

**Adalimumab (Humira®)**
- 2-4x month

**Anakinra (Kineret®)**
- 1x day

**Canakinumab (Ilaris®)**
- 1x month

**Abatacept (Orencia®)**
- 1x month

**Infliximab (Remicade®)**
- 1x month

**Rituximab (Rituxan®)**
- 2x in 1 month every 6 months

**Tocilizumab (Actemra®)**
- 1-2x month
There is no way to predict which, if any, of these side effects you will experience.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medicine</th>
<th>How Soon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leflunomide (Arava®)</td>
<td>4-8 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulfasalazine (Azulfidine®)</td>
<td>4-12 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methotrexate (Rheumatrex® or Trexall®)</td>
<td>4-6 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etanercept (Enbrel®)</td>
<td>2-4 weeks</td>
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<td>Adalimumab (Humira®)</td>
<td>2-4 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anakinra (Kineret®)</td>
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<td>Tocilizumab (Actemra®)</td>
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What you pay will depend on your insurance.

Patient assistance programs may be available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost?</th>
<th>Leflunomide (Arava®)</th>
<th>Sulfasalazine (Azulfidine®)</th>
<th>$</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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Stopping or decreasing the medicine may be considered after the disease is well controlled.

**How Long?**

- 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?