

When you're ready to talk to your doctor about rheumatoid arthritis, joint damage, and REMICADE

Only your rheumatologist can tell you for sure if rheumatoid arthritis is damaging your joints and if REMICADE can help stop further joint damage for you.

It's always best to prepare your questions before your appointment so you don't forget anything you want to ask. Let your doctor know at the beginning of the appointment that you have some questions, so there will be time for him or her to answer all of them.

Here are some questions you might want to ask:

1. Do you know if I have any joint damage?
2. Do you know if RA is damaging my joints now?
3. What tests would help you know for sure?
4. Do the medications I'm taking now help to stop further joint damage?
5. If I'm feeling better and not having any pain or stiffness in my joints, does that mean that RA is not damaging my joints?
6. Does methotrexate actually help STOP further joint damage, or does it just slow it down?
7. Will REMICADE help stop further joint damage from RA?

Have some questions of your own? Write them down in the space below.

REMICADE, used in combination with methotrexate, can reduce signs and symptoms, help stop further joint damage, and improve physical function in many patients with moderate to severe RA.

Important Safety Information

There are reports of serious infections, including tuberculosis (TB), sepsis, and pneumonia. Some of these infections have been fatal. Tell your doctor if you have had recent or past exposure to people with TB. Your doctor will evaluate you for TB and perform a TB test. If you have latent (inactive) TB, your doctor should begin TB treatment before you start REMICADE. REMICADE can lower your ability to fight infections, so if you are prone to or have a history of infections, or develop any signs of an infection such as fever, fatigue, cough, flu or warm, red or painful skin while taking REMICADE, tell your doctor right away. Also, tell your doctor if you are scheduled to receive a vaccine or if, you have lived in a region where histoplasmosis or coccidioidomycosis is common.

Reports of a type of blood cancer called lymphoma in patients on REMICADE or other TNF blockers are rare but occur more often than expected for people in general. People who have been treated for rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis, or plaque psoriasis for a long time, particularly those with highly active disease may be more prone to develop lymphoma. Cancers, other than lymphoma, have also been reported. Children and young adults who have been treated for Crohn's disease with REMICADE have developed a rare type of lymphoma that often results in death. These patients also were receiving drugs known as azathioprine or 6-mercaptopurine. If you take REMICADE or other TNF blockers, your risk for developing lymphoma or other cancers may increase. You should also tell your doctor if you have had or develop lymphoma or other cancers or if you have a lung disease called chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Many people with heart failure should not take REMICADE; so prior to treatment you should discuss any heart condition with your doctor. Tell your doctor right away if you develop new or worsening symptoms of heart failure (such as shortness of breath, swelling of your ankles or feet, or sudden weight gain).

Reactivation of hepatitis B virus has been reported in patients who are carriers of this virus and are taking TNF blockers, such as REMICADE. Some of these cases have been fatal. Tell your doctor if you know or think you may be a carrier of hepatitis B virus or if you experience signs of hepatitis B infection, such as feeling unwell, poor appetite, tiredness, fever, skin rash, and/or joint pain.

There have been rare cases of serious liver injury in people taking REMICADE, some fatal. Tell your doctor if you have liver problems and contact your doctor immediately if you develop symptoms such as jaundice (yellow skin and eyes), dark brown urine, right-sided abdominal pain, fever, or severe fatigue.

Blood disorders have been reported, some fatal. Tell your doctor if you develop possible signs of blood disorders such as persistent fever, bruising, bleeding, or paleness while taking REMICADE. Nervous system disorders have also been reported. Tell your doctor if you have or have had a disease that affects the nervous system, or if you experience any numbness, weakness, tingling, visual disturbances, or seizures while taking REMICADE.

Allergic reactions, some severe, have been reported during or after infusions with REMICADE. Signs of an allergic reaction include hives, difficulty breathing, chest pain, high or low blood pressure, swelling of face and hands, and fever or chills. Tell your doctor if you have experienced a severe allergic reaction. The most common side effects of REMICADE are: respiratory infections (such as sinus infections and sore throat), headache, rash, coughing, and stomach pain.

Please read the Medication Guide for REMICADE and discuss with your doctor.

Medication Guide

- Please read the Medication Guide at http://www.remicade.com/pdf/Med_Guide.pdf and discuss with your doctor.

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