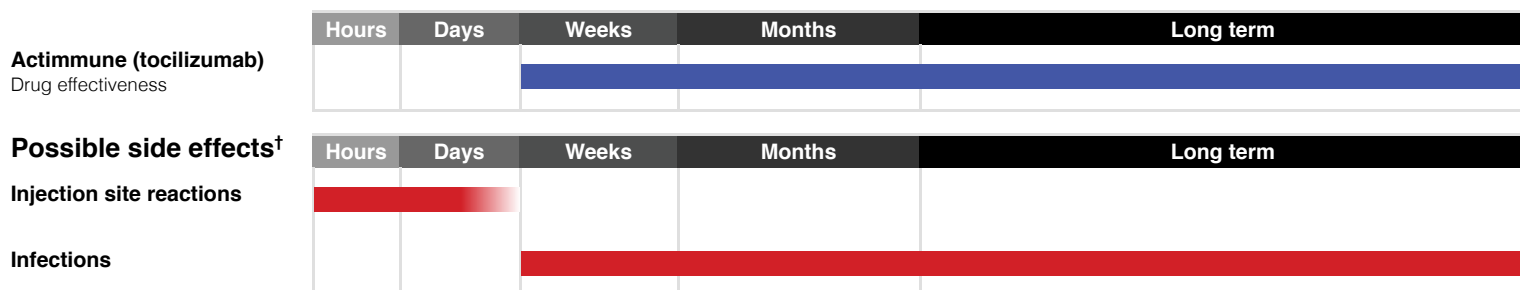


Actimmune (tocilizumab) basics

Calms down the immune system and helps prevent joint damage. Actimmune (tocilizumab) effectively relieves pain and prevents joint damage. You can get it as a shot or an infusion, but it may not be the best choice if you have liver problems.

What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.



† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- It can take between 2 weeks and 3 months to start working.
- Even after your symptoms begin to improve, it is important to keep taking Actimmune (tocilizumab) to prevent further damage to your joints.
- Actimmune (tocilizumab) is available as an infusion (given at a doctor's office or an infusion center) or as an injection (given to yourself at home). Discuss which is best for you with your doctor.
- If you're using Actimmune (tocilizumab) at home, rotate your injection areas to avoid skin reactions. Don't give yourself an injection where your skin is red, bruised, or irritated.
- Keep Actimmune (tocilizumab) refrigerated, but let it warm up to room temperature for 30 to 60 minutes before using it.

Risks and warnings

The FDA has identified these as possible serious or life-threatening risks with this medication. Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Risk of serious or life-threatening infection

Actimmune (tocilizumab) makes it harder for your immune system to fight infections. It increases the risk of serious or life-threatening infections, including TB (tuberculosis). Let your doctor know if you have a fever, cough, red or painful skin sores, stomach pain, or pain when you urinate. You'll need to have a TB (tuberculosis) test before starting Actimmune (tocilizumab).

Stomach and intestinal problems

In studies, some people taking Actimmune (tocilizumab) had tears in their stomach or intestines. Tell your doctor right away if you have any new stomach pain.

Blood test changes

In studies, Actimmune (tocilizumab) sometimes causes changes in blood cells, liver enzymes, and cholesterol or fat levels, so you'll get regular blood tests to check these. These changes don't usually cause any serious problems, but you may need to stop taking Actimmune (tocilizumab) until the blood tests go back to normal.