

Enbrel (etanercept) basics

Calms down your immune system to prevent joint damage. Enbrel (etanercept) effectively calms down your immune system, but it puts you at risk of serious infections.

What to expect when starting

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

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Enbrel (etanercept) Drug effectiveness			[Blue bar from Week 1 to Month 3]		
Possible side effects					
Injection site reactions 37% chance vs. 11% placebo*	[Red bar from Hour 0 to Day 7]				
Infections 50% chance vs. 39% placebo*		[Red bar from Day 1 to Month 3]			

* Placebo is a sugar pill with no medicinal benefit.

Tips from pharmacists

- Enbrel (etanercept) is available as an injection and a SureClick Autoinjector. You and your doctor can discuss which is best for you.
- Enbrel (etanercept) is a medication that's injected under the skin (subcutaneous). Your doctor can give you your first dose, then let you self-inject it once you learn how to do it correctly.
- Enbrel (etanercept) lowers your immune system's ability to fight infections including tuberculosis (TB), fungal, viral, and bacterial infections. Your doctor will check for TB and hepatitis B before starting Enbrel (etanercept). Let your doctor know if you come down with a fever, cough, or notice flu-like symptoms before or during treatment.
- Enbrel (etanercept) can cause redness, rash, swelling, itching, or bruising at the site of injection. Do not inject into skin that's already red, bruised, or irritated. Rotate your injection areas to avoid skin reactions.
- Keep Enbrel (etanercept) refrigerated, but let it rest at room temperature for 30 to 60 minutes before using it. Enbrel (etanercept) should not be used if kept at room temperature for longer than 14 days.
- You should not receive certain vaccinations with Enbrel (etanercept). Discuss with your doctor about your vaccine history and whether you need to receive any vaccines before treatment.

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.

Serious infections

Enbrel (etanercept) can increase your risk of serious or life-threatening bacterial, fungal, and viral infections. In some cases infections like tuberculosis (TB) or hepatitis B virus (HBV) can come back after being hidden. You may need to take medicine for TB before you can begin taking Enbrel (etanercept). If you develop symptoms of cough, fever, chills, muscle aches, dark urine, yellowing of skin/eyes, weight loss, vomiting, change in stool color, or skin rash, tell your doctor and get medical care right away.

Cancer

People on Enbrel (etanercept) are more likely to have certain types of cancer, especially blood and skin cancers, although this is still rare. Your doctor will check your health regularly.

Serious allergic reactions

Rarely, Enbrel (etanercept) can cause allergic reactions that can be life-threatening. If you have hives, itching, trouble breathing, or lip, tongue, or throat swelling right after your dose or days later, call your doctor and get medical emergency care right away. You might need to stop taking Enbrel (etanercept). Inform your doctor if you have a latex allergy, as the SureClick Autoinjector has latex in the needle cover.