

Humira (adalimumab) basics

Calms down the immune system. Humira (adalimumab) is good for treating many autoimmune conditions, but it can also cause serious side effects.

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
Humira (adalimumab) Drug effectiveness			[Blue bar spanning Weeks and Months]		
Possible side effects†					
Upper airway infection		[Red bar spanning Days, Weeks, and Months]			
Headache		[Red bar spanning Days, Weeks, and Months]			
Rash		[Red bar spanning Days, Weeks, and Months]			
Sinus infections			[Red bar spanning Weeks and Months]		
Nausea	[Red bar spanning Hours and Days]				
Injection site reactions	[Red bar spanning Hours and Days]				

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Humira (adalimumab) is a medication that's injected under the skin. Your doctor can give you your first dose, then you can inject yourself at home once you feel comfortable doing so on your own.
- Humira (adalimumab) lowers your ability to fight infections, so it's important to let your doctor know if you have a fever, cough, or flu-like symptoms.
- Tell your doctor if you have an allergy to latex since the syringe needle cover has latex in it.
- Each time you use Humira (adalimumab), it's important to rotate the sites you chose to inject it in. Don't inject Humira (adalimumab) into skin that's red, bruised, or irritated.
- As with all injection medicines, store securely away from children and throw away used syringes in an FDA-approved sharps disposal container, and not in the trash.

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

Humira (adalimumab) can increase your risk of serious or life-threatening infections. In some cases, existing inactive infections can be reactivated such as tuberculosis (TB) or hepatitis B virus (HBV). You may need to take medicine for TB before you can begin taking Humira (adalimumab). If you develop symptoms of cough, fever, chills, muscle aches, fatigue, dark urine, yellowing of skin/eyes, loss of appetite, vomiting, change in stool color, stomach discomfort, or skin rash, tell your doctor right away.

Cancers

TNF blockers including Humira (adalimumab) can lower the body's defenses against cancer. There appears to be a higher risk of blood, skin, and other cancers in people who take Humira (adalimumab). Talk to your doctor about your individual risks.

Serious allergic reactions

Humira (adalimumab) can cause allergic reactions that can be life-threatening. If you have hives, itching, trouble breathing, or lip, tongue, or throat swelling after your dose, call your doctor right away and get emergency care. You might need to stop taking Humira (adalimumab).