

# Simponi (golimumab) basics

**Calms down the immune system.** Simponi (golimumab) effectively calms down your immune system, but it is given as a shot and puts you at risk of serious infections like tuberculosis or hepatitis B.

## 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
<b>Simponi (golimumab)</b> Drug effectiveness			[Blue gradient bar]		
<b>Possible side effects†</b>					
<b>Common cold</b>			[Red gradient bar]		
<b>Injection site reactions</b>	[Red gradient bar]				
<b>Viral infections (such as influenza and herpes)</b>			[Red gradient bar]		
<b>Bronchitis</b>			[Red gradient bar]		
<b>Superficial fungal infections</b>			[Red gradient bar]		
<b>Sinusitis</b>			[Red gradient bar]		

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

## Tips from pharmacists

- Simponi (golimumab) is an immunosuppressant medication that's injected under the skin (subcutaneous) once a month.
- Simponi (golimumab) 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 Simponi (golimumab), it's important to rotate the sites you chose to inject it in (either your abdomen, thigh, or upper arm). Don't inject Simponi (golimumab) into skin that's red, bruised, or irritated.
- Keep it refrigerated, and let it sit at room temperature for about 30 minutes before injecting yourself. Do not shake the Simponi (golimumab) autoinjector at any time.
- People taking Simponi (golimumab) should not get live vaccines. Talk to your doctor before receiving any vaccines.

## 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.

### High risk of infections with TNF inhibitors

Simponi (golimumab) 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 Simponi (golimumab). If you develop symptoms of cough, fever, chills, muscle aches, fatigue, dark urine, yellowing of skin/eyes, appetite/weight loss, vomiting, change in stool color, stomach discomfort, or skin rash, tell your doctor and get medical care right away.

### Cancer

TNF blockers including Simponi (golimumab) can lower the body's defenses against cancer. There appears to be a higher risk of cancers such as lymphomas in people who take Simponi (golimumab). Talk to your doctor about your individual risks.

### Nervous system effects

Although rare, Simponi (golimumab) can cause nervous system conditions such as multiple sclerosis (MS) and Guillain Barré syndrome. If you currently have a nervous system condition, your doctor will watch you closely while you're taking Simponi (golimumab) since it can make them worse. Let your doctor know right away if you notice numbness or tingling, weakness in arms or legs, vision problems, or dizziness.

This information relates to Simponi prescribed for Rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, and ankylosing spondylitis. This should not be taken as medical advice or guidance on your prescription, and is not a substitute for a health care provider's judgment. Any decision about the treatment or the reliability of information is the sole responsibility of your health care provider.

For more information and to see what other people experienced, check out [/drug/simponi](#).

