

Adalimumab (Humira)


Tumor Necrosis Factor (TNF) – Alpha Medicines

One of the main classes of third line treatment is medicines that reduce levels of TNF-alpha, which is part of the immune system. In some patients with sarcoidosis, TNF-alpha is believed to lead to more inflammation and medicines blocking it have helped patients improve.

Adalimumab is a medicine that suppresses your immune system. Medicines that suppress your immune system have an increased risk of infection and cancer.

It is a medicine that is given by injection once a week or once every 2 weeks. Usually patients are taught to give themselves the injection.

Sometimes, insurance companies require pre-approval of the medication and delays may happen if the insurance rejects the use of this medicine. If that occurs, we may need to appeal the prescription rejection decision.



Pregnancy and Adalimumab

There are no known risks of adalimumab in pregnancy.

What to Expect When Taking Adalimumab

Prior to starting adalimumab, your sarcoidosis team will ask you to have several tests that screen for HIV, hepatitis, and tuberculosis.

One of the most common side effects when taking adalimumab is injection site reactions or pain.

Monitoring

While on Adalimumab, it is recommended to have blood tests evaluating your blood counts, liver function, and kidney function every three months to make sure there are no problems. It is also important to have a yearly tuberculosis test. Often, patients will be asked to have an adalimumab level and antibody test at least once a year.

It is important to temporarily stop taking Adalimumab if you have an infection. If you think you have an infection or have been diagnosed with an infection, please talk to your sarcoidosis team.