

Infliximab

(Remicade, Renflexis, Inflectra)

This medication is used to treat moderate to severe **CROHN'S DISEASE** and **ULCERATIVE COLITIS**

Included in a drug class called anti-TNF medications

Works by reducing inflammation that leads to the symptoms of Crohn's / ulcerative colitis

DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- Intravenous (IV) infusion given by a healthcare professional
- Infusions are typically given over 2 hours
- Dose and frequency of administration as prescribed by your provider

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

- Anti-drug antibody formation
- Rashes including psoriasis
- Infusion reaction
- Increased risk of infection
- Rare increased risk of lymphoma, melanoma
- Very rare increased risk of multiple sclerosis (nerve disorder), lupus-like reaction (autoimmune), heart failure

These rare risks are outweighed by potential complications of untreated inflammatory bowel disease

ADDITIONAL TESTING AND MONITORING

Prior to starting this medication, your doctor may order:

- Blood counts, liver tests, test for tuberculosis (blood test or skin test and/or x-ray) and hepatitis B (blood test), test for inflammation (blood and/or stool test), stool tests to rule out infection, abdominal imaging and/or colonoscopy

While on this medication, your doctor may order:

- Blood counts and liver tests regularly to ensure safety
- Repeat tests for inflammation and abdominal imaging and/or colonoscopy to assess your response to treatment

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OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- This medication is safe to use in pregnancy and breast feeding
- Make sure you are up to date on the following vaccinations: annual flu, pneumovax, Prevnar-13, tetanus, hepatitis A and B, and Shingrix (age>50)
- Avoid LIVE vaccines while on this medication
- Obtain an annual skin evaluation by your primary care physician or dermatologist
- Financial assistance may be available
- **This medication should be taken exactly as prescribed to properly treat the disease**
- Please contact your doctor if you notice any signs or symptoms of infection
- Do not stop or hold your infusions without contacting your gastroenterologist

