

ENBREL (ETANERCEPT)

What is Enbrel?

Enbrel is a medicine used in reducing the signs and symptoms of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis. Enbrel is a type of protein called a tumor necrosis factor (TNF) blocker which assists in decreasing inflammation and abnormal immune response.

How is Enbrel administered?

Enbrel is delivered via a subcutaneous (under the skin) injection once or twice weekly. It is designed to be administered at home following instruction by a health care professional. The usual starting dose is 50mg pre-filled syringe twice a week for 3 months and then 50mg weekly.

What are the side effects?

Although Enbrel is tolerated very well by most, possible side effects include:

Injection site reaction: Mild pain, redness, or swelling may occur at the site of the injection.

Cardiac: Congestive heart failure may be worsened.

Infections: Enbrel should be temporarily discontinued if you develop a febrile illness (fever). In addition, Enbrel is not recommended in patients with a history of tuberculosis or Hepatitis B.

Neurologic events: Enbrel should not be used in patients with neurologic disease.

Immunization: Live Vaccines should be avoided during treatment.

Blood: Rarely, Enbrel may affect blood counts.

Is Enbrel safe to use during pregnancy or breast feeding?

Enbrel is considered a Category B medication. This means that animal studies have revealed no evidence of harm to the fetus, but there are no studies in pregnant women. This drug should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed. It is not known whether Enbrel is excreted in human milk.

If you need assistance regarding Enbrel, please call toll free 1-888-436-2735.

For more information please visit our website: www.pennstatehershey.org/web/dermatology/home and click on Health Information Library.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your provider at the location you were treated.
Hershey Medical Center, UPC I, Suite 100 (717) 531-6820 or Nyes Road, (717) 657-4045.
Penn State Hershey Medical Group, Colonnade Building (814)272-4445