

## **PATIENT FACT SHEET**

## Ixekizumab (Taltz)



Ixekizumab (Taltz) is a biologic medication used to treat psoriatic arthritis and plaque psoriasis.

Biologic medications are proteins designed by humans that affect the immune system. Ixekizumab blocks the inflammatory protein IL-17A. This improves joint pain and swelling from arthritis and rash from psoriasis.



**Ixekizumab is a self-administered injection that comes in 80 mg syringes.** For psoriatic arthritis, it starts with 160 mg [2 syringes], followed by 80 mg [1 syringe] every 4 weeks. For plaque psoriasis, it starts with 160 mg [2 syringes], followed by 80 mg [1 syringe] at weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12, then every 4 weeks. The medicine can be injected into the thigh or abdomen. The site of injection

should be rotated so the same site is not used multiple times. Some patients will start to see improvement within a few weeks, but it may take several months to take full effect. Ixekizumab may be taken alone or with methotrexate or other non-biologic drugs. Ixekizumab should not be given in combination with another biologic drug.



SIDE EFFECTS Ixekizumab can lower the ability of your immune system to fight infections. If you develop symptoms of an infection while using this medication, you should stop it and contact your doctor. All patients should be tested for tuberculosis before starting on Ixekizumab. The most common side effects are infections, injection

site reactions, upper respiratory infections, and lowering of white blood cells called neutropenia. Rare cases of inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis) have been seen. Ixekizumab has not been studied in pregnancy or breastfeeding.



You should contact your doctor of you develop symptoms of an infection, such as a fever or cough, or if you think you are having any side effects, especially diarrhea or allergic reactions. Be sure to let your doctor know if you are pregnant, planning to get pregnant, or

if you are breastfeeding. If you are planning on having surgery or if you plan on getting any live vaccinations, talk to your doctor first. These include the shingles vaccine, the nasal spray flu vaccine, and others such as the measles, mumps, rubella, and yellow fever vaccines.

Updated March 2019 by Vaneet Sandhu, MD, and reviewed by the American College of Rheumatology Communications and Marketing Committee. This information provided for general education only. Individuals should consult a qualified health care provider for professional medical advice, diagnosis and treatment of a medical or health condition.

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