

Each question will have **7 facts** about specific medications:

1. The way the medication is taken
2. How fast the medication starts working
3. The chance of bothersome side effects like headaches and stomach problems (such as sour stomach, nausea or diarrhea)
4. The chance of a serious infection
5. Reports of very rare side effects
6. The amount of information available about the medication
7. How affordable the medication is

In the following pages, we will describe each of these in more detail.



### The way the medication is taken

In this survey, medications can be taken either by:



1. **Pills:** The number of pills can vary from 2 to 6 pills per day. Half are taken in the morning and half in the evening.



2. **Injections you give yourself:** This is the same as the way diabetics give themselves insulin shots. Depending on the specific medication, the injections are given once a week, once every 2 weeks, or once every 4 weeks. Patients have a choice to use a pre-loaded syringe or a pre-loaded "pen" that hides the needle.



3. **Infusions:** These are usually given in your doctor's office or in a hospital infusion center. Infusions usually take between 30 minutes to 2 hours. Depending on the specific medication, infusions are given once a month, once every 2 months or about once every 6 months.



0%  100%

### How fast the medication starts working

After 1 year, the benefits of each of these medications are the same. But as you can see here, some start working faster than others. The medication will be described as starting to work in either:

1. **2** weeks
2. **6** weeks
3. **12** weeks



The next 3 facts will be about the risk of side effects:

### **The chance of bothersome side effects**

Some medications can cause side effects that are not dangerous, but can interfere with your quality of life. These side effects go away when the dose of the medication is lowered or if the medication is stopped. Over the counter medications can also help with these side effects. In this survey, we will ask you to think about the risk of headaches and the risk of stomach problems (such as sour stomach, nausea or diarrhea).

The chances of these side effects happening will be described as affecting either:

1. **0%** - This means that none of the people taking the medication gets these bothersome side effects.
2. **10%** - This means that 10% of people taking the medication get these bothersome side effects.
3. **30%** - This means that 30% of people taking the medication get these bothersome side effects.



### The chance of serious infection

All medications for rheumatoid arthritis can increase the risk of a serious infection. These infections need to be treated in a hospital with intravenous (IV) antibiotics for 3 to 5 days. One of the most common serious infections is pneumonia.

The medication will be described as causing a serious infection in either:

1. **1%** - This means 1% of people taking this medication get a serious infection that needs to be treated in the hospital each year.
2. **3%** - This means 3% of people taking this medication get a serious infection that needs to be treated in the hospital each year.
3. **5%** - This means 5% of people taking this medication get a serious infection that needs to be treated in the hospital each year.



### Reports of very rare side effects

Medications for rheumatoid arthritis have also been associated with very rare side effects.

In this survey you will see 4 possibilities:

1. **A stomach or intestinal tear.** This is a medical emergency that requires immediate surgery to repair the tear. Sometimes, a small part of the intestine must be removed. This happens in 0.2% of people taking the medication, and can happen at any time.
2. **A neurologic disease like multiple sclerosis (MS)** with weakness and numbness in your arms or legs. This happens in 0.05% of people taking the medication, and can happen at anytime.
3. **Permanent eye problems** such as blurred vision, seeing light flashes, or missing/blacked-out areas. This happens in 0.3% of people taking the medication, but only after 5 years on the medication.
4. **A life threatening brain infection.** This type of infection causes brain damage and is often fatal. This happens in 0.005% of people taking the medication, and can happen at any time.



### The amount of information available

Some medications for rheumatoid arthritis are fairly new, and others have been around for more than 20 years. The longer the medication has been on the market, the more doctors know about its rare and long-term side effects.

In the survey, the amount of information available about the medication will be described as either:

1. **A little** - This refers to the amount of information for medications that have been on the market for about 3 years.
2. **Some** - This refers to the amount of information for medications that have been on the market for about 10 years.
3. **A lot** - This refers to the amount of information for medications that have been on the market for about 27 years.



### How affordable the medication is

Even with health insurance, many patients pay some portion of the costs of their medications. In this survey, assume that insurance will not cover all of the costs for you personally. This may include co-pays, co-insurance, deductibles, or other direct costs that you pay. You will see 3 possibilities:

1. **Easily affordable:** This means that very small or no changes in your budget would be needed for you to pay for these costs.
2. **Somewhat affordable:** This means that some changes in your budget would be needed for you to pay for these costs.
3. **Hard to afford:** This means that major changes in your budget would be needed for you to pay for these costs.

