

Abatacept Patient Information

Pronunciation (ab a TA sept)

Brand Name – Orencia

What is this medication used for?

- Psoriatic arthritis
- Rheumatoid arthritis

How is this medication administered?

- Abatacept is administered intravenously as a 30 minute infusion

What are the possible side effects I may experience?

- Many people have no side effects or very mild side effects
- Most common side effects include:
 - Headache
 - Nausea/Vomiting
 - Dizziness
 - Back pain
 - Common cold symptoms
- Call your doctor at once if you have serious side effects such as:
 - Signs of an allergic reaction such as hives, difficulty breathing, swelling of your face, lips, throat or tongue
 - Signs of an infection such as fever, chills, very bad sore throat, ear or sinus pain, cough, sputum, pain with passing urine, mouth sores or wounds that will not heal
 - Patients with COPD- worsening COPD, cough or trouble breathing**
 - Very tired or weak
 - Flu-like symptoms
 - Very bad dizziness/passing out
 - Very bad headache
 - Shortness of breath
 - Skin lumps or growth
 - Weight loss
 - Night sweats
 - This medication may increase your chances of certain types of cancer. Discuss with your doctor**

What are some things I need to know or do while I am taking abatacept?

- Have your blood work checked before each infusion
- You must be checked for tuberculosis and up to date on all immunizations before beginning therapy
- Notify your doctor of any weight loss or gain
- You have an increased risk of getting an infection while on this medication. Wash your hands often. Stay away from people with infections, cold or flu
- *** This information is not specific medical advice and does not replace information you receive from the healthcare provider. You must talk with the healthcare provider for complete information about the risks and benefits of using this medication***