



PATIENT FACT SHEET

Secukinumab (Cosentyx)



WHAT IS IT?

Secukinumab (Cosentyx) is a biologic medication used to treat psoriatic arthritis, moderate to severe plaque psoriasis, and ankylosing spondylitis.

Biologics are medicines that are man made through genetic engineering techniques and closely related to

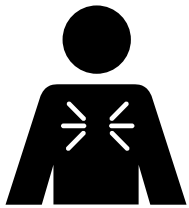
a protein that occurs naturally in the body. Secukinumab blocks an inflammatory protein called IL-17, which improves joint pain and swelling from arthritis and rash from psoriasis.



HOW TO TAKE IT

Secukinumab is a self-administered injection that comes in 150mg dose syringes. The typical dose is 150 or 300mg per injection. Depending on your dose, you may inject 1 or 2 syringes each time it is given. Secukinumab usually begins with weekly doses for the first 5 weeks, followed by a dose every month. 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. Secukinumab may be taken alone or with methotrexate or other non-biologic drugs. Secukinumab should not be given in combination with another biologic drug.



SIDE EFFECTS

The most common side effects are cold symptoms, diarrhea, and upper respiratory infections. Rare cases of inflammatory bowel disease, such as Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis, have been seen. Very rarely, patients

have developed allergic reactions to secukinumab. Secukinumab can lower your immune system's ability to fight infections. All patients should be tested for tuberculosis before starting on secukinumab.



TELL YOUR DOCTOR

If you develop signs of an infection or have any side effects, especially diarrhea, fever, or allergic reactions, you should stop taking the medication and contact your doctor. If you are pregnant or considering pregnancy, let your doctor know before starting this

medication. Secukinumab has not been studied in pregnancy or breastfeeding. Be sure to talk with your doctor before receiving any vaccines or undergoing any surgeries while taking this medication.