

Abatacept, adalimumab, etanercept and tocilizumab for treating juvenile idiopathic arthritis

Information for the public

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What has NICE said?

Abatacept (Orencia), adalimumab (Humira), etanercept (Enbrel) and tocilizumab (RoActemra) are recommended as possible treatments for people with polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis.

Adalimumab and etanercept are recommended as possible treatments for people with enthesitis-related juvenile idiopathic arthritis.

Etanercept is recommended as a possible treatment for people with psoriatic juvenile idiopathic arthritis.

What does this mean?

If your (or your child's) doctor thinks that abatacept, adalimumab, etanercept or tocilizumab are the right treatment, you (or your child) should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

Abatacept, adalimumab, etanercept and tocilizumab should be available on the NHS within 3 months of the guidance being issued.

If you (or your child) are not eligible for treatment as described above, you (or your child) should be able to continue taking abatacept, adalimumab, etanercept or tocilizumab until you and your (or your child's) doctor decide it is the right time to stop.

Why has NICE said this?

NICE looks at how well treatments work in relation to how much they cost compared with other treatments available on the NHS.

Abatacept, adalimumab, etanercept and tocilizumab were recommended because the benefits to patients justify their cost.

The condition and the treatments

Arthritis causes pain and inflammation in joints. Juvenile idiopathic arthritis is a type of arthritis that starts in people younger than 16 years (juvenile). The cause is unknown (idiopathic). Enthesitis-related arthritis is a type of juvenile idiopathic arthritis that affects tendons where they attach to the bones. Psoriatic arthritis is a type of juvenile idiopathic arthritis with both inflammation in joints and the skin condition psoriasis. It is described as active when the skin or joint symptoms occur.

Abatacept (Orencia), adalimumab (Humira), etanercept (Enbrel) and tocilizumab (RoActemra) help to reduce pain and swelling caused by juvenile idiopathic arthritis. They may slow down the disease and help to prevent permanent joint damage.

NHS Choices (www.nhs.uk) may be a good place to find out more.

Sources of advice and support

- [Children's Chronic Arthritis Association](#), 01905 745 595
- [National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society](#), 0800 298 7650
- [Versus Arthritis](#), 0800 520 0520

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Accreditation

