

Tofacitinib for treating juvenile idiopathic arthritis

Information for the public

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Tofacitinib (Xeljanz) is available on the NHS as a possible treatment for juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) and juvenile psoriatic arthritis that has not responded well enough to disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) in children and young people over 2 years old.

This is only if a tumour necrosis factor (TNF)-alpha inhibitor, such as adalimumab or etanercept, is not suitable or does not control the condition well enough.

If you are not eligible for tofacitinib but are already having it, you should be able to continue until you (or your parent or carer) and your doctor decide when best to stop.

Is this treatment right for me?

Your healthcare professionals should give you clear information, talk with you about your options and listen carefully to your views and concerns. Your family can be involved too, if you wish. Read more about [making decisions about your care](#).

Questions to think about

- How well does it work compared with other treatments?
- What are the risks or side effects? How likely are they?
- How will the treatment affect my day-to-day life?
- What happens if the treatment does not work?
- What happens if I do not want to have treatment? Are there other treatments available?

Information and support

The [NHS website](#) may be a good place to find out more.

These organisations can give you advice and support:

- [Children's Chronic Arthritis Association \(CCAA\)](#), 01242 511250
- [National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society](#), 0800 298 7650
- [Versus Arthritis](#), 0800 5200 520

You can also get support from your local [Healthwatch](#).

NICE is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of any information or advice provided by these organisations.

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