

Name:
Date of birth:
Drug:



Rijnstate

The aforementioned patient is being monitored in the Rheumatology department in connection with a condition for which he/she is currently taking a Biological/JAK inhibitor.

We would draw your attention to the increased risk of infections during treatment with these drugs. Infections may develop faster and/or take a more serious course.

The same applies to tuberculosis or opportunistic infections.

When using either of these drugs it is important:

- to discontinue the drug temporarily during a serious infection
- to discontinue the drug temporarily prior to a surgical or dental procedure, in consultation with the person treating the patient. The duration will depend on the drug and the risk of infection associated with the planned or actual procedure

As regards vaccinations:

- live attenuated vaccines are contraindicated and may not be administered
- the annual influenza vaccination is recommended

The Rheumatology outpatient department is available for consultation on telephone number **+31 88 005 5400**

Drug-specific precautions

TNF-alpha inhibitors (including Etanercept, Adalimumab, Infliximab, Golimumab and Certolizumab Pegol):

are contraindicated in patients with moderate to severe heart failure

Tofacitinib/Baricitinib: as well as increasing the risk of infection, these drugs also significantly increase the risk of developing Herpes Zoster (shingles)

Tocilizumab: ESR and CRP do not increase or increase more slowly during treatment with this drug and are therefore not reliable parameters for assessing infections. Use of this drug increases the risk of developing diverticulitis.

Rituximab and Abatacept: in rare cases these drugs can cause a serious brain infection (PML). Symptoms include confusion, memory loss, difficulty thinking, loss of balance, loss of strength/weakness on one side of the body, blurred vision/sight loss. Please contact us immediately if any of the symptoms mentioned are experienced.