

Table 2

Mode of action, dosing regimen, and common side effects of biologic therapies for rheumatoid arthritis

Drug	Mode of action	Dose and mode of administration	Half life	Most common side effects	Less common, but more serious adverse effects
Adalimumab	Anti-TNF- α	40 mg SC alternate weeks	14 days	Infections, injection site reactions, headache and musculoskeletal pain	TB reactivation, hepatitis B reactivation, lupus-like syndrome, malignancy and demyelinating disorders
Etanercept	Anti-TNF- α	50 mg SC once a week	3 days	Injection site reactions, infections, development of autoantibodies, itching and fever	TB reactivation, hepatitis B reactivation, lupus-like syndrome, malignancy and demyelinating disorders
Infliximab	Anti-TNF- α	3 mg/kg IV every 8 weeks	7-9 days	Infections and headache	TB reactivation, hepatitis B reactivation, lupus-like syndrome, malignancy and demyelinating disorders
Certolizumab pegol	Anti-TNF- α	200 mg SC alternate weeks	14 days	Infections, injection site reactions and rashes	TB reactivation, hepatitis B reactivation, lupus-like syndrome, malignancy and demyelinating disorders
Golimumab	Anti-TNF- α	50 mg SC once a month	14 days	Infections	TB reactivation, hepatitis B reactivation, lupus-like syndrome, malignancy and demyelinating disorders
Tocilizumab	Anti-IL6	162 mg SC once a week	4 days	Infections, headache, hypertension and raised ALT	Neutropenia, diverticular perforation, elevation of lipids, TB re-activation
Rituximab	Anti-B cell	2 x 1,000 mg IV at 0 and 2 weeks Review at 24 weeks	22 days	Infections, infusion-related reactions, rash, neutropenia and low IgG levels	Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy
Abatacept	Anti-T cell activation	125 mg SC once a week	14 days	Headache, nausea and infections	Non-melanoma skin cancer