Cimzia is the trade name for the biologic certolizumab pegol. It is a biologic medicine. Biologics are made from living sources such as human, animal or bacteria cells. Cimzia is used to treat psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis (together called psoriatic disease).

**How effective is it?**

Cimzia helps to stop inflammation in the skin, joints and tendons and reduce psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis symptoms.

A clinical trial is a research study used to determine how safe and effective a new treatment is. This often is done to compare the new treatment with a placebo [an inactive pill, liquid or powder that has no treatment value].

In clinical trials:

- 64 percent of adults with psoriatic arthritis experienced at least a 20 percent improvement after 6 months
- 75% of adults with psoriasis experienced at least a 75 percent improvement after 4 months
- 49% of adults with psoriasis experienced at least a 90 percent improvement after 4 months

Treating your psoriatic disease is important for disease management, reducing your risk for comorbidities [related health conditions] and improving your overall health and quality of life. Keep in mind that each person responds differently to treatments. Speak with your health care provider about what treatment may be most appropriate.

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**Fast facts about Cimzia**

- Was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for treating adults with psoriatic arthritis in 2013 and moderate to severe plaque psoriasis in 2018
- Works by targeting the cytokine [a type of protein involved in the immune system] called tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF-alpha)
- Is available by prescription and is given as a self-injection [a shot that you give yourself]; help and training is offered for self-injections
- Is meant to be taken long-term

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**Financial assistance**

UCBCares provides financial support and other resources for people taking Cimzia. For more information, call 844-599-2273 or visit askucbcare.com.
How does it work?
Biologics for psoriatic disease target a specific part of the immune system that is overactive.

Your immune system protects your body from illness and infections. With psoriatic disease, the immune system is overactive. This causes inflammation of the skin and speeds up skin cell growth. It also causes inflammation in joints, tendons and ligaments in psoriatic arthritis.

Who can take it?
Adults over the age of 18 with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis or psoriatic arthritis can take Cimzia. Speak with your health care provider if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

Who should not take it?
You should not take Cimzia if you have active serious infections or a history of frequent infections.

What are the risks?
There is the risk for an allergic reaction and an increased risk for infections. This is because the treatment is causing some immunosuppression (lowering the function of the immune system). If you notice any sign of infection, speak with your health care provider right away. Before starting Cimzia, you will be screened for latent (non-active) tuberculosis (TB). Avoid receiving live vaccines while taking Cimzia.

There have been rare reports of:
- Fungal infection
- Hepatitis B reactivation
- Low blood count
- Lupus-like syndrome
- Lymphoma and other malignancies
- Nervous system problems
- New or worsening heart failure
- Serious allergic reaction
- Serious infection

Speak with your health care provider if you develop a fever or chest pains that do not go away, shortness of breath, sudden weight gain or swelling of your ankles or feet.

Common side effects
In clinical trials, the most common side effects associated with Cimzia are:

- **Infections such as the flu, sinus infections or upper respiratory infections**: 21.9% of patients with psoriasis treated with Cimzia reported infections (compared to 21% of patients treated with a placebo)
- **Headaches**: 3.8% of patients with psoriasis treated with Cimzia reported headaches (compared to 2.5% of patients treated with a placebo)
- **Injection site reactions**: 3.2% of patients with psoriasis treated with Cimzia reported injection site reactions (compared to 0.6% of patients treated with a placebo)
- **Coughs**: 3.2% of patients with psoriasis treated with Cimzia reported coughs (compared to 1.9% of patients treated with a placebo)

These side effects happen most often after the first dose and may decrease after additional doses or over time. The side effects are generally mild and do not cause most people to stop taking Cimzia.

Keep in mind that side effects observed in clinical trials may not predict actual rates of side effects.

What should I do next?
- Speak with your health care provider about whether Cimzia is appropriate for you.
- Contact our Patient Navigation Center to find providers, discuss treatments and get help with accessing treatments (find contact information below).