Orencia is the trade name for the biologic abatacept. It is a biologic medicine. Biologics are made from living sources such as human, animal or bacteria cells. Orencia is used to treat psoriatic arthritis.

How effective is it?

Orencia helps to stop inflammation in the joints and tendons and reduce psoriatic arthritis symptoms and slow disease progression.

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:

• 47.5 percent of adults with psoriatic arthritis experienced at least a 20 percent improvement after 6 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.

Fast facts about Orencia

• Was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for treating adults with psoriatic arthritis in July 2017

• Works by targeting T cells (a type of white blood cell involved in the immune system)

• Is available by prescription and is given as an intravenous (IV) infusion (a slow drip of medicine into the vein) or as a self-injection (a shot that you give yourself); help and training are offered for self-injections

• Is meant to be taken long-term

Financial assistance

Orencia provides financial support and other resources for people taking Orencia. For more information, call 800-673-6242 or visit orencia.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 psoriatic arthritis can take Orencia.

Women of child-bearing potential should use effective contraception during treatment and up to 14 weeks after your last dose. Women should not breastfeed during treatment and for up to 14 weeks after your last dose.

Who should not take it?

You should not take Orencia if you:

- Are also taking a medicine that is a tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF-alpha) inhibitor
- Are pregnant or breastfeeding unless clearly necessary
- Have a history of frequent infections
- Have an active hepatitis B or tuberculosis (TB) infection

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 Orencia, you will be screened for latent (non-active) TB.

You may receive vaccines while on Orencia, except for live vaccines. Live vaccines should not be given during treatment or within 3 months of stopping treatment. Medicines that affect the immune system, including Orencia, may reduce the effectiveness of some vaccines.

Common side effects

In clinical trials with adults with psoriatic arthritis, the most common side effects associated with Orencia are similar to that seen in adults with rheumatoid arthritis using Orencia:

- **Infections such as the flu, sinus infections or upper respiratory infections**: 54% of patients treated with Orencia reported infections (compared to 48% of patients treated with a placebo)

- **Headaches**: 18% of patients treated with Orencia reported headaches (compared to 13% of patients treated with a placebo)

- **Nausea**: 6% of patients treated with Orencia reported nausea (compared to 4% 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 Orencia.

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 Orencia is appropriate for you.**
- **Contact our Patient Navigation Center to find providers, discuss treatments and get help with accessing treatments (find contact information below).**

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National Psoriasis Foundation educational materials are medically reviewed and are not intended to replace the counsel of a physician. The Foundation does not endorse any medications, products or treatments for psoriasis or psoriatic arthritis and advises you to consult a physician before initiating any treatment.