

Arthritis Foundation Comment on Anti-TNF Antibody Therapy in Rheumatoid Arthritis and the Risk of Serious Infections and Malignancies

On Wednesday, May 17, 2006, the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) published a study on the risk of serious infections and malignancies with TNF inhibitors in patients with rheumatoid arthritis.

This is an important study that documents and confirms the risk of both serious infections and malignant cancers with the TNF inhibitors infliximab and adalimumab. Studies on etanercept were not included in the review. While the added risk of each of these complications is very small, they appear to increase with increasing doses of the drugs.

The Arthritis Foundation believes TNF inhibitors are an important therapy for rheumatoid arthritis and other inflammatory forms of arthritis. Patients currently being treated with or considering these therapies need to be made aware of these risks. People with arthritis concerned about this issue should consult with their physician. In addition, they should be alert to symptoms of infections, get vaccinated and undergo cancer screenings appropriate for their age and gender.

For More Information

Contact the Arthritis Foundation at 1-800-568-4045 or www.arthritis.org for a free copy of *Arthritis Today's Drug Guide*. To locate the chapter that serves your area, call 1-800-568-4045 or visit the Arthritis Foundation Web site at www.arthritis.org.

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