

# TIPS FOR PROTECTING LUPUS PATIENTS

sage infusion

## What Are Benlysta and Saphnelo?

Benlysta (belimumab) and Saphnelo (anifrolumab) are medications used to treat systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), also known as lupus. These medications help control lupus by targeting specific parts of the immune system that are overactive in this disease. While this helps control the disease, it also means your body may have a harder time fighting off infections.

### Common infections to watch for:

- Respiratory infections (colds, flu, pneumonia, bronchitis)
- Urinary tract infections
- Skin infections (cellulitis)
- Shingles (herpes zoster) - especially with Saphnelo

### Warning signs of infection - Contact your doctor if you have

- Fever or flu-like symptoms
- New or worsening cough or shortness of breath
- Burning when urinating or urinating more often than usual
- Painful skin rash, especially with blisters (could be shingles)
- Any signs of infection that don't improve with usual treatment

## How to Protect Yourself from Infections

### Before starting treatment:

- Coordinate with your doctor ensuring all recommended vaccinations are up to date

### While on treatment:

- Do NOT receive live vaccines (such as measles, mumps, rubella, chickenpox, shingles vaccine, nasal flu vaccine, yellow fever). Live vaccines should not be given for 30 days before or concurrently with Benlysta.
- You can receive inactivated vaccines like the flu shot and COVID-19 vaccines
- Practice good hand hygiene - wash hands frequently with soap and water
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick or believed to be sick
- Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered
- Practice good dental hygiene and see your dentist regularly

FOR MORE INFO

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