



Biologics for Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)



Overview

This treatment for RA uses a type of drug known as a "biological product." We also call these drugs "biologics." Let's see how they differ from the drugs we commonly take.

What's different about these drugs?

Most drugs are made from chemical compounds created in a lab. But biologics come from living cells that we grow and change, sometimes at the genetic level. We can make these drugs from the tissues and fluids of humans and animals. We can make them from microorganisms. Biologics can affect the body in very specific ways.

Targeting the immune system

How are they used to treat RA? Well, we have biologics that target the immune system's inflammatory response. In people who have RA, this is what causes the lining of the joints to become painful and swollen. Biologics help reduce or stop the inflammation, slowing the disease. For some people with RA, biologics work faster than other drugs.

Conclusion

Biologics aren't right for all patients. They can have side effects. They can make it harder for your body to fight infection. So talk with your doctor about these drugs to find out if they are safe for you.