Nepexto® Etanercept Injection 50 mg/ 1.0 mL Solution for injection in pre-filled pen
For Subcutaneous use only.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

Read the Instructions for Use before you start using Etanercept and each time you get a refill of your prescription. There may be new information.

- Do not try to give yourself the injection unless your doctor or nurse has shown you how to give the injection.

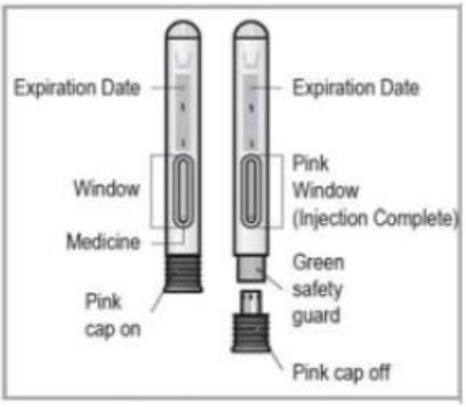
A single-use pre-filled pen contains one 50 mg dose of Etanercept. Not included in pack:

- Alcohol Swab
- Gauze pad and plaster
- Sharps disposal container

A. Prepare for injection

Find a well-lit, clean surface and gather all the equipment you need:

- A new Etanercept pre-filled pen
- Do not shake the pre-filled pen



1. **Inspect the pre-filled pen:**

Check the expiry date on the pre-filled pen label.

- Do not use the pre-filled pen past the expiration date.
- Do not use the pre-filled pen if it has been dropped onto a hard surface (Components inside the pre-filled pen may be broken).
- Do not use the pre-filled pen if the needle cap is missing or not securely attached.

2. **Inspect the solution:**

Look at the medicine through the viewing window.

- The medicine should be clear or slightly opalescent, colourless or pale yellow, and may contain small white or almost transparent particles of protein.
- Do not use the solution if it is discoloured, cloudy, or if particles other than those described above are present.

3. **Allow the medicine to reach room temperature:**

- Remove one pre-filled pen from the carton that is stored in the refrigerator and leave at room

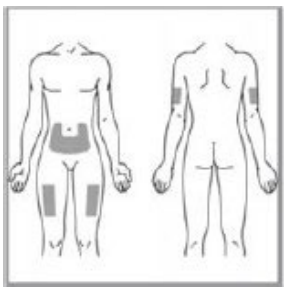
temperature for at least 30 minutes before injecting. This is important to make the medicine easier and more comfortable to inject.

- Do not remove the needle cap until you are ready to inject. Do not use heat sources, such as a microwave or hot water, to warm Etanercept.

4. **Choose an injection site:**

The Etanercept pre-filled pen is for a subcutaneous injection. It should be injected into the thigh, abdomen, or back of the upper arm (see image on the right). Rotate the site for each injection.
If you are injecting it into the abdomen, choose a site that is at least 5 cm away from the belly button.

- Do not inject into areas that are red, hard, bruised, or tender.
- Do not inject into scars or stretch marks.
- If you have psoriasis, do not inject into any raised, thick, red, or scaly skin patches, or lesions.



B. Injection steps

Step 1: Wash your hands with soap and water.

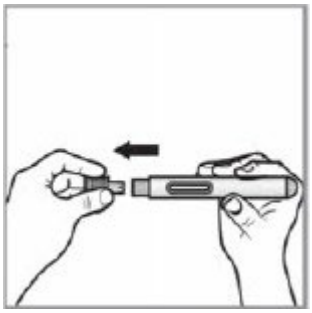
Step 2: Wipe the skin at the injection site with an alcohol swab. See '4. Choose an injection site' for guidance with choosing an injection site.

- Do not touch this area again before giving the injection.

Step 3: Pull the needle cap straight off and dispose of it in the bin or sharps container.

- Do not twist or bend the needle cap while removing it, as this may damage the needle.

- Never recap the needle.



Step 4: Gently stretch the skin at the cleaned injection site. Position the pre-filled pen approximately 90 degrees to the skin.

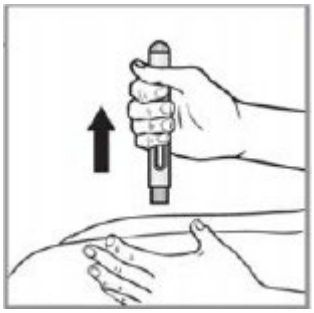
- Do not pinch the skin.
- Stretching the skin creates a firm surface.

Step 5: Firmly press the pre-filled pen down into the site to start the injection.
The device will click when the injection begins. Continue to hold the pre-filled pen firmly pressed into the site. The device will click a second time.

Step 6: After the second click, count slowly to 15 to make sure that the injection is complete.

- Do not release pressure against the injection site before the injection is complete.
- Do not move the pre-filled pen during the injection.

Step 7: Remove the empty pen from the skin. The needle guard will completely cover the needle. Check for the pink plunger rod in the window to confirm that the full dose has been delivered.



Disposal:
Dispose of the empty pen in an approved sharps container. Check with your healthcare provider far instructions on how to properly dispose a filled sharps container. Sharps disposal containers may be purchased at your local pharmacy.

- Do not throw the sharps container in household bin.
- Do not recycle.
- Always keep the container out of the sight and reach of children.

C. Injection site care
If there is bleeding at the injection site, press a gauze pad over the injection site.

- Do not rub the injection site.

If needed, cover the injection site with a plaster. If you have any questions or require further information, please talk with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

PRESCRIBING INFORMATION
Nepexto® Etanercept Injection 50 mg/ 1.0 mL Solution for injection in pre-filled pen
For Subcutaneous use only.

COMPOSITION:
Each pre-filled pen contains 50 mg of Etanercept.
Etanercept is a human tumor necrosis factor receptor p75 Fc fusion protein produced by recombinant DNA technology in a Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) mammalian expression system. Etanercept is a dimer of a chimeric protein genetically engineered by fusing the extracellular ligand binding domain of human tumor necrosis factor receptor-2 (TNFR2/p75) to the Fc domain of human IgG1. This Fc component contains the hinge, CH2 and CH3 regions, but not the CH1 region of IgG1. Etanercept contains 934 amino acids and has an apparent molecular weight of approximately 150 kilodaltons. The specific activity of etanercept is 1.7×10^6 units/mg.
For the full list of excipients, see List of excipient section.

PHARMACEUTICAL FORM
Solution for injection (injection).
The solution is clear to slightly opalescent, Colorless or pale yellow, and is formulated at pH 6.3 ± 0.2. The osmolality of the solution is 310 ± 30 mOsm/kg.

Nepexto pre-filled pen is a single use, disposable combination product designed for use a long with 1.0ml prefilled- syringe (PFS) with 27G 1/2inch needle with rigid needle shield (RNS) containing Etanercept solution for injection

Nepexto is a biosimilar product developed based on reference product, Enbrel.

PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES
Pharmacodynamic properties
Pharmacotherapeutic group: Immunosuppressants, tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF-) inhibitors. ATC code: L04AB01
Nepexto® is a biosimilar medicinal product.

Tumor necrosis factor (TNF) is a dominant cytokine in the inflammatory process of rheumatoid arthritis. Elevated levels of TNF are also found in the synovium and psoriatic plaques of patients with psoriatic arthritis and in serum and synovial tissue of patients with ankylosing spondylitis. In plaque psoriasis, infiltration by inflammatory cells, including T-cells, leads to increased TNF levels in psoriatic lesions compared with levels in uninvolved skin. Etanercept is a competitive inhibitor of TNF binding to its cell surface receptors, and thereby inhibits the biological activity of TNF. TNF and lymphotoxin are pro-inflammatory cytokines that bind to two distinct cell surface receptors: the 55-kilodalton (p55) and 75-kilodalton (p75) tumor necrosis factor receptors (TNFRs). Both TNFRs exist naturally in membrane-bound and soluble forms. Soluble TNFRs are thought to regulate TNF biological activity.

TNF and lymphotoxin exist predominantly as homotrimers, with their biological activity dependent on crosslinking of cell surface TNFRs. Dimeric soluble receptors, such as etanercept, possess a higher

affinity for TNF than monomeric receptors and are considerably more potent competitive inhibitors of TNF binding to its cellular receptors. In addition, use of an immunoglobulin Fc region as a fusion element in the construction of a dimeric receptor imparts a longer serum half-life.

Mechanism of action

Much of the joint pathology in rheumatoid arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis and skin pathology in plaque psoriasis is mediated by pro-inflammatory molecules that are linked in a network controlled by TNF. The mechanism of action of etanercept is thought to be its competitive inhibition of TNF binding to cell surface TNFR, preventing TNF-mediated cellular responses by rendering TNF biologically inactive. Etanercept may also modulate biologic responses controlled by additional downstream molecules (e.g., cytokines, adhesion molecules, or proteinases) that are induced or regulated by TNF. Etanercept inhibits the activity of TNF in vitro and has been shown to affect several animal models of inflammation, including collagen-induced arthritis in mice.

Clinical efficacy and safety

This section presents data from four randomized controlled trials in adults with rheumatoid arthritis, one study in adults with psoriatic arthritis, four studies in adults with ankylosing spondylitis, two studies in adults with nonradiographic axial spondyloarthritis, four studies in adults with plaque psoriasis, three studies in juvenile idiopathic arthritis and two studies in pediatric patients with plaque psoriasis.

Adult patients with rheumatoid arthritis

The efficacy of etanercept was assessed in a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study. The study evaluated 234 adult patients with active rheumatoid arthritis who had failed therapy with at least one but no more than four disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs). Doses of 10 mg or 25 mg etanercept or placebo were administered subcutaneously twice a week for 6 consecutive months. The results of this controlled trial were expressed in percentage improvement in rheumatoid arthritis using American College of Rheumatology (ACR) response criteria.

ACR 20 and 50 responses were higher in patients treated with etanercept at 3 and 6 months than in patients treated with placebo (ACR 20: etanercept 62% and 59%, placebo 23% and 11% at 3 and 6 months, respectively: ACR 50: etanercept 41% and 40%, placebo 8% and 5% at months 3 and 6, respectively; $p < 0.01$ etanercept vs. placebo at all timepoints for both ACR 20 and ACR 50 responses).

Approximately 15% of subjects who received etanercept achieved an ACR 70 response at month 3 and month 6 compared to fewer than 5% of subjects in the placebo arm. Among patients receiving etanercept, the clinical responses generally appeared within 1 to 2 weeks after initiation of therapy and nearly always occurred by 3 months. A dose response was seen; results with 10 mg were intermediate between placebo and 25 mg. Etanercept was significantly better than placebo in all components of the ACR criteria, as well as other measures of rheumatoid arthritis disease activity not included in the ACR response criteria, such as morning stiffness. A Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ), which included disability, vitality, mental health, general health status, and arthritis-associated health status subdomains, was administered every 3 months during the trial. All subdomains of the HAQ were improved in patients treated with etanercept compared to controls at 3 and 6 months.

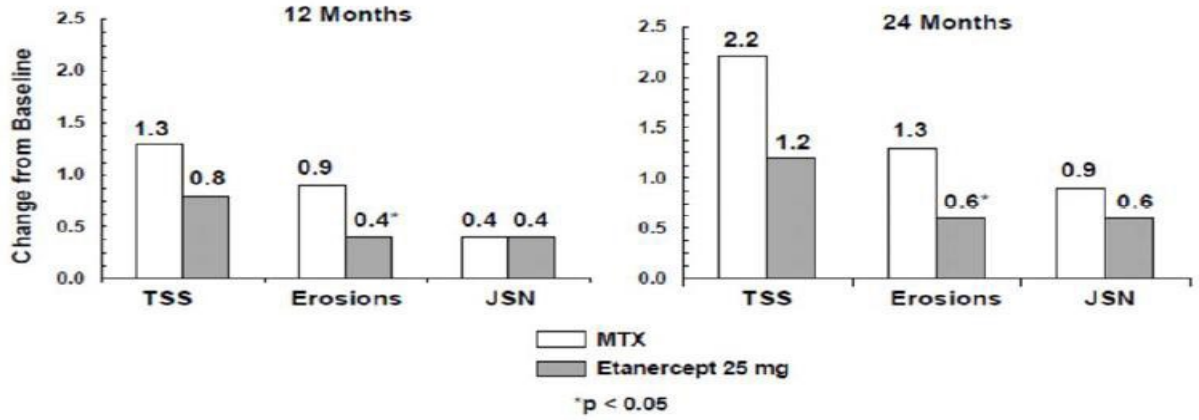
After discontinuation of etanercept, symptoms of arthritis generally returned within a month. Reintroduction of treatment with etanercept after discontinuation of up to 24 months resulted in the same magnitudes of responses as patients who received etanercept without interruption of therapy

based on results of open-label studies. Continued durable responses have been seen for up to 10 years in open-label extension treatment trials when patients received etanercept without interruption.

The efficacy of etanercept was compared to methotrexate in a randomized, active-controlled study with blinded radiographic evaluations as a primary endpoint in 632 adult patients with active rheumatoid arthritis (< 3 years duration) who had never received treatment with methotrexate. Doses of 10 mg or 25 mg etanercept were administered subcutaneously (SC) twice a week for up to 24 months. Methotrexate doses were escalated from 7.5 mg/week to a maximum of 20 mg/week over the first 8 weeks of the trial and continued for up to 24 months. Clinical improvement, including onset of action within 2 weeks with etanercept 25 mg, was similar to that seen in the previous trials and was maintained for up to 24 months. At baseline, patients had a moderate degree of disability, with mean HAQ scores of 1.4 to 1.5. Treatment with etanercept 25 mg resulted in substantial improvement at 12 months, with about 44% of patients achieving a normal HAQ score (less than 0.5). This benefit was maintained in Year 2 of this study.

In this study, structural joint damage was assessed radiographically and expressed as change in Total Sharp Score (TSS) and its components, the erosion score and Joint Space Narrowing (JSN) score. Radiographs of hands/wrists and feet were read at baseline and 6, 12, and 24 months. The 10 mg etanercept dose had consistently less effect on structural damage than the 25 mg dose. Etanercept 25 mg was significantly superior to methotrexate for erosion scores at both 12 and 24 months. The differences in TSS and JSN were not statistically significant between methotrexate and etanercept 25 mg. The results are shown in the figure below.

Radiographic progression: comparison of etanercept vs. methotrexate in patients with RA of <3 years duration



In another active-controlled, double-blind, randomized study, clinical efficacy, safety, and radiographic progression in RA patients treated with etanercept alone (25 mg twice weekly), methotrexate alone (7.5 to 20 mg weekly, median dose 20 mg), and the combination of etanercept and methotrexate initiated concurrently were compared in 682 adult patients with active rheumatoid arthritis of 6 months to 20 years duration (median 5 years) who had a less than satisfactory response to at least 1 disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (DMARD) other than methotrexate.

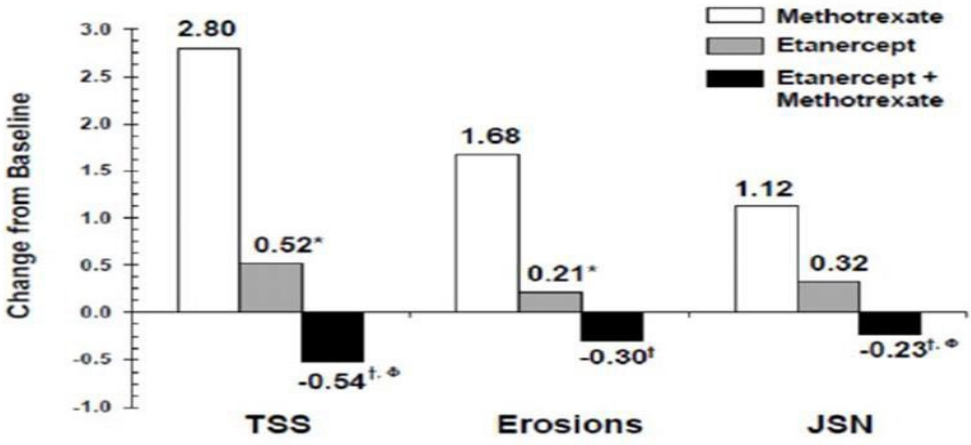
Patients in the etanercept in combination with methotrexate therapy group had significantly higher ACR 20, ACR 50, ACR 0 responses and improvement for DAS and HAQ scores at both 24 and 52 weeks than patients in either of the single therapy groups (results shown in table below).
Significant advantages for etanercept in combination with methotrexate compared with etanercept monotherapy and methotrexate monotherapy were also observed after 24 months.

Clinical efficacy results at 12 months: comparison of etanercept vs. methotrexate vs. etanercept in combination with methotrexate in patients with RA of 6 months to 20 years duration

Endpoint		Methotrexate (n=228)	Etanercept (n=223)	Etanercept + Methotrexate (n= 231)
ACR Responses*	ACR 20	58.8%	65.5%	74.5%†+
	ACR 50	36.4%	43.0%	63.2%†+
	ACR 70	16.7%	22.0%	39.8% †+
DAS	(Score[b]) Baseline	5.5	5.7	5.5
	(Score[b]) Week 52	3.0	3.0	2.3†+
	Remission[c]	14%	1.8%	37%†+
HAQ	Baseline	1.7	1.7	1.8
	Week 52	1.1	1.0	0.8†+

[a] Patients who do not complete 12 months in the study were considered to be non-responders.
[b] Values for Disease Activity Score(DAS) are means
[c] Remission is defined as DAS<1.6
Pairwise comparison p-values: † = p<0.05 for the comparisons of etanercept + methotrexate vs. methotrexate and Φ = p<0.05 for comparison of etanercept + methotrexate vs. etanercept.

Radiographic progression at 12 months was significantly less in the etanercept group than in the methotrexate group, while the combination was significantly better than either monotherapy at slowing radiographic progression (see figure below)



Pairwise comparison p-values: * = p < 0.05 for comparisons of etanercept vs.methotrexate, † = p < 0.05 for comparisons of etanercept + methotrexate vs. methotrexate and Φ = p < 0.05 for comparisons of etanercept + methotrexate vs. etanercept.

Significant advantages for etanercept in combination with methotrexate compared with etanercept monotherapy and methotrexate monotherapy were also observed after 24 months. Similarly, the significant advantages for etanercept monotherapy compared with methotrexate monotherapy were also observed after 24 months.

In an analysis in which all patients who dropped out of the study for any reason were considered to have progressed, the percentage of patients without progression (TSS change _ 0.5) at 24 months was higher in the etanercept in combination with methotrexate group compared with the etanercept alone and methotrexate alone groups (62%, 50%, and 36%, respectively; p < 0.05). The difference between etanercept alone and methotrexate alone was also significant (p< 0.05). Among patients who completed a full 24 months of therapy in the study, the non- progression rates were 78%, 70%, and 61%, respectively.

The safety and efficacy of 50 mg etanercept (two 25 mg SC injections) administered once weekly were evaluated in a double-blind, placebo-controlled study of 420 patients with active RA. In this study, 53 patients received placebo, 214 patients received 50 mg etanercept once weekly and 153 patients received 25 mg etanercept twice weekly. The safety and efficacy profiles of the two etanercept treatment regimens were comparable at week 8 in their effect on signs and symptoms of RA; data at week 16 did not show comparability (non-inferiority) between the two regimens.

Adult patients with psoriatic arthritis
The efficacy of etanercept was assessed in a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study in 205 patients with psoriatic arthritis. Patients were between 18 and 70 years of age and had active psoriatic arthritis (≥3 swollen joints and ≥3 tender joints) in at least one of the following forms: (1) distal interphalangeal (DIP) involvement; (2) polyarticular arthritis (absence of rheumatoid nodules and presence of psoriasis); (3) arthritis mutilans; (4) asymmetric psoriatic arthritis; or (5) spondylitis like ankylosis. Patients also had plaque psoriasis with a qualifying target lesion ≥2 cm in diameter.

Patients had previously been treated with NSAIDs (86%), DMARDs (80%), and corticosteroids (24%). Patients currently on methotrexate therapy (stable for ≥2 months) could continue at a stable dose of ≤25 mg/week methotrexate. Doses of 25 mg of etanercept (based on dose-finding studies in patients with rheumatoid arthritis) or placebo were administered SC twice a week for 6 months. At the end of the double-blind study, patients could enter a long- term open-label extension study for a total duration of up to 2 years. Clinical responses were expressed as percentages of patients achieving the ACR 20, 50, and 70 response and percentages with improvement in Psoriatic Arthritis Response Criteria (PsARC). Results are summarized in the table below.

Responses of patients with psoriatic arthritis in a placebo-controlled trial

Psoriatic Arthritis Response		**Percent of Patients**	
		Placebo n = 104	**Etanercept [a] n = 101**
ACR 20	Month 3	15	59[b]
	Month 6	13	50[b]
ACR 50	Month 3	4	38[b]
	Month 6	4	37[b]
ACR 70	Month 3	0	11[b]
	Month 6	1	9[c]
Ps ARC	Month 3	31	72[b]
	Month 6	23	70[b]

[a] 25 mg etanercept SC twice weekly; [b] p<0.001, etanercept vs. placebo; [c] p<0.01, etanercept vs. placebo

Among patients with psoriatic arthritis who received etanercept, the clinical responses were apparent at the time of the first visit (4 weeks) and were maintained through 6 months of therapy. Etanercept was significantly better than placebo in all measures of disease activity (p< 0.001), and responses were similar with and without concomitant methotrexate therapy. Quality of life in psoriatic arthritis patients was assessed at every timepoint using the disability index of the HAQ. The disability index score was significantly improved at all timepoints in psoriatic arthritis patients treated with etanercept, relative to placebo (p < 0.001).

Radiographic changes were assessed in the psoriatic arthritis study. Radiographs of hands and wrists were obtained at baseline and months 6, 12, and 24. The modified TSS at 12 months is presented in the table below. In an analysis in which all patients who dropped out of the study for any reason were considered to have progressed, the percentage of patients without progression (TSS change ≤0.5) at 12 months was higher in the etanercept group compared with the placebo group (73% vs. 47%, respectively, p ≤0.001). The effect of etanercept on radiographic progression was maintained in patients who continued on treatment during the second year. The slowing of peripheral joint damage

was observed in patients with polyarticular symmetrical joint involvement.

Mean (SE) annualized change from baseline in total sharp score

Time	Placebo (n = 104)	Etanercept (n = 101)
Month 12	1.00 (0.29)	-0.03 (0.09)[2]

SE = Standard error
*p = 0.0001

Etanercept treatment resulted in improvement in physical function during the double-blind period, and this benefit was maintained during the longer-term exposure of up to 2 years.

There is insufficient evidence of the efficacy of etanercept in patients with ankylosing spondylitis-like and arthritis mutilans psoriatic arthropathies due to the small number of patients studied.
No study has been performed in patients with psoriatic arthritis using the 50 mg once-weekly dosing regimen. Evidence of efficacy for the once-weekly dosing regimen in this patient population has been based on data from the study in patients with ankylosing spondylitis.

Adult patients with ankylosing spondylitis
The efficacy of etanercept in ankylosing spondylitis was assessed in 3 randomized, double- blind studies comparing twice-weekly administration of 25 mg etanercept with placebo. A total of 401 patients were enrolled, from which 203 were treated with etanercept. The largest of these trials (n =277) enrolled patients who were between 18 and 70 years of age and had active ankylosing spondylitis defined as visual analogue scale (VAS) scores of ≥30 for average of duration and intensity of morning stiffness plus VAS scores of ≥30 for at least 2 of the following 3 parameters: patient global assessment; average of VAS values for nocturnal back pain and total back pain; average of 10 questions on the Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index (BASFI). Patients receiving DMARDs, NSAIDS, or corticosteroids could continue them on stable doses. Patients with complete ankylosis of the spine were not included in the study. Doses of 25 mg of etanercept (based on dose-finding studies in patients with rheumatoid arthritis) or placebo were administered subcutaneously twice a week for 6 months in 138 patients.

The primary measure of efficacy (ASAS 20) was a ≥20% improvement in at least 3 of the 4 Assessment in Ankylosing Spondylitis (ASAS) domains (patient global assessments, back pain, BASFI, and inflammation) and absence of deterioration in the remaining domain. ASAS 50 and 70 responses used the same criteria with a 50% improvement or a 70% improvement, respectively.
Compared to placebo, treatment with etanercept resulted in significant improvements in the ASAS 20, ASAS 50 and ASAS 70 as early as 2 weeks after the initiation of therapy.

Responses of patients with ankylosing spondylitis in a placebo-controlled trial

	Percent of Patients	
Ankylosing Spondylitis Response	**Placebo n = 139**	**Etanercept n = 138**
ASAS 20		
2 Weeks	22	46[a]
3 months	27	60[a]
6 months	23	58[a]
ASAS 50		
2 weeks	7	24[a]
3 months	13	45[a]
6 months	10	42[a]
ASAS 70		
2 weeks	2	12[b]
3 months	7	29[b]
6 months	5	28[b]

[a] p < 0.001, etanercept vs. placebo

[b] p = 0.002, etanercept vs. Placebo

Among patients with ankylosing spondylitis who received etanercept, the clinical responses were apparent at the time of the first visit (2 weeks) and were maintained through 6 months of therapy. Responses were similar in patients who were or were not receiving concomitant therapies at baseline.

Similar results were obtained in the 2 smaller ankylosing spondylitis trials.
In a fourth study, the safety and efficacy of 50 mg etanercept (two 25 mg SC injections) administered once weekly vs. 25 mg etanercept administered twice weekly were evaluated in a double-blind, placebo-controlled study of 356 patients with active ankylosing spondylitis. The safety and efficacy profiles of the 50 mg once weekly and 25 mg twice-weekly regimens were similar.

Adult patients with non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis
The efficacy of etanercept in patients with non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis (nr-AxSpa) was assessed in a randomized, 12-week double-blind, placebo-controlled study. The study evaluated 215 adult patients (modified intent-to-treat population) with active nr-AxSpa (18 to 49 years of age), defined as those patients meeting the ASAS classification criteria of axial spondyloarthritis but did not meet the modified New York criteria for AS. Patients were also required to have an inadequate response or intolerance to two or more NSAIDs. In the double- blind period, patients received etanercept 50 mg weekly or placebo for 12 weeks. The primary measure of efficacy (ASAS 40) was a 40% improvement in at least three of the four ASAS domains and absence of deterioration in the remaining domain. The double-blind period was followed by an open-label period during which all patients receive etanercept 50 mg weekly for up to an additional 92 weeks. MRIs of the sacroiliac joint and spine were obtained to assess inflammation at baseline and at weeks 12 and 104.
Compared to placebo, treatment with etanercept resulted in statistically significant improvement in the ASAS 40, ASAS 20 and ASAS 5/6. Significant improvement was also observed for the ASAS partial remission and BASDAI 50. Week 12 results are shown in the table below.

Efficacy response in placebo-controlled nr-AxSpa study: Percent of patients achieving endpoints

Double – Blind Clinical Responses at Week 12	Placebo n = 106 to 109	Etanercept n = 103 to 105*
ASAS** 40	15.7	32.4[b]
ASAS 20	36.1	52.4[c]
ASAS 5/6	10.4	33.0[a]
ASAS partial remission	11.9	24.8[c]
BASDAI***50	23.9	43.8[b]

*Some patients did not provide complete data for each endpoint
**ASAS = Assessments in Spondyloarthritis International Society
***Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index
[a] p < 0.001; [b] < 0.01; [c] <0.05, respectively between etanercept and placebo

Research Consortium of Canada) score for the sacroiliac joint (SIJ) as measured by MRI for patients receiving etanercept. Adjusted mean change from baseline was 3.8 for etanercept treated (n = 95) versus 0.8 for placebo treated (n = 105) patients (p < 0.001). At week 104, the mean change from baseline in the SPARCC score measured on MRI for all etanercept-treated subjects was 4.64 for the SIJ (n=153) and 1.40 for the spine (n=154).

Etanercept showed statistically significantly greater improvement from baseline to week 12 compared to placebo in most health-related quality of life and physical function assessments, including BASFI (Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index), EuroQol 5D Overall Health State Score and SF-36 Physical Component Score.

Clinical responses among nr-AxSpa patients who received etanercept were apparent at the time of the

first visit (2 weeks) and were maintained through 2 years of therapy. Improvements in health-related quality of life and physical function were also maintained through 2 years of therapy.
The 2-year data did not reveal any new safety findings. At week 104, 8 subjects had progressed to a score of bilateral Grade 2 on spinal X-ray according to the modified New York Radiological Grade, indicative of axial spondyloarthropathy.

Adult patients with plaque psoriasis
Etanercept is recommended for use in patients as defined in section "Therapeutic Indication". Patients who "failed to respond to" in the target population is defined by insufficient response (PASI < 50 or PGA less than good), or worsening of the disease while on treatment, and who were adequately dosed for a sufficiently long duration to assess response with at least each of the three major systemic therapies as available.
The efficacy of etanercept versus other systemic therapies in patients with moderate to severe psoriasis (responsive to other systemic therapies) has not been evaluated in studies directly comparing etanercept with other systemic therapies. Instead, the safety and efficacy of etanercept were assessed in four randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled studies. The primary efficacy endpoint in all four studies was the proportion of patients in each treatment group who achieved the PASI 75 (i.e., at least a 75% improvement in the Psoriasis Area and Severity Index score from baseline) at 12 weeks.

Study 1 was a Phase 2 study in patients with active, but clinically stable, plaque psoriasis involving ≥10% of the body surface area who were ≥18 years old. One hundred and twelve (112) patients were randomized to receive a dose of 25 mg of etanercept (n = 57) or placebo (n = 55) twice a week for 24 weeks.

Study 2 evaluated 652 patients with chronic plaque psoriasis using the same inclusion criteria as study 1 with the addition of a minimum psoriasis area and severity index (PASI) of 10 at screening. Etanercept was administered at doses of 25 mg once a week, 25 mg twice a week or 50 mg twice a week for 6 consecutive months. During the first 12 weeks of the double-blind treatment period, patients received placebo or one of the above three etanercept doses. After 12 weeks of treatment, patients in the placebo group began treatment with blinded etanercept (25 mg twice a week); patients in the active treatment groups continued to week 24 on the dose to which they were originally randomized.

Study 3 evaluated 583 patients and had the same inclusion criteria as study 2. Patients in this study received a dose of 25 mg or 50 mg etanercept, or placebo twice a week for 12 weeks and then all patients received open label 25 mg etanercept twice weekly for an additional 24 weeks.
Study 4 evaluated 142 patients and had similar inclusion criteria to studies 2 and 3. Patients in this study received a dose of 50 mg etanercept or placebo once weekly for 12 weeks and then all patients received open label 50 mg etanercept once weekly for an additional 12 weeks.

In study 1, the etanercept-treated group had a significantly higher proportion of patients with a PASI 75 response at week 12 (30%) compared to the placebo-treated group (2%) ($p < 0.0001$). At 24 weeks, 56% of patients in the etanercept-treated group had achieved the PASI 75 compared to 5% of placebo-treated patients. Key results of studies 2, 3 and 4 are shown below.

Responses of patients with psoriasis in studies 2, 3 and 4

Response (%)	**Study 2**			**Study 3**			**Study 4**		
	Placebo	**Etanercept**		**Placebo**	**Etanercept**		**Placebo**	**Etanercept**	
		25 mg BIW	**50 mg BIW**		**25 mg BIW**	**50 mg BIW**		**25 mg QW**	**50 mg QW**

	n = 166	n = 162	n = 162	n = 164	n = 164	n = 193	n = 196	n = 196	n = 46	n = 96	n = 90
	wk 12	wk 12	wk 24	wk 12	wk 24	wk 12	wk 12	wk 12	wk 12	wk 12	wk 24
PASI 50	14	58*	70	74*	77	9	48	77*	9	69*	83
PASI 75	4	34*	44	49*	59	3	34*	49*	2	38*	71
DSGA[b] clear or almost clear	5	35*	39	49*	55	4	39*	57*	4	39*	64

*$p \leq 0.0001$ compared with placebo

[a] No statistical comparisons to placebo were made at week 24 in studies 2 and 4 because the original placebo group began receiving etanercept 25 mg BIW or 50 mg once weekly from week 13 to week 24.

[b] Dermatologist Statistic Global Assessment. Clear or almost clear defined as 0 or 1 on a 0 to 5 scale.

Among patients with plaque psoriasis who received etanercept, significant responses relative to placebo were apparent at the time of the first visit (2 weeks) and were maintained through 24 weeks of therapy.

Study 2 also had a drug withdrawal period during which patients who achieved a PASI improvement of at least 50% at week 24 had treatment stopped. Patients were observed off treatment for the occurrence of rebound (PASI ≥150% of baseline) and for the time to relapse (defined as a loss of at least half of the improvement achieved between baseline and week 24). During the withdrawal period, symptoms of psoriasis gradually returned, with a median time to disease relapse of 3 months. No rebound flare of disease and no psoriasis-related serious adverse events were observed. There was some evidence to support a benefit of re-treatment with etanercept in patients initially responding to treatment.

In study 3, the majority of patients (77%) who were initially randomized to 50 mg twice weekly and had their etanercept dose decreased at week 12 to 25 mg twice weekly maintained their PASI 75 response through week 36. For patients who received 25 mg twice weekly throughout the study, the PASI 75 response continued to improve between weeks 12 and 36.

In study 4, the etanercept-treated group had a higher proportion of patients with PASI 75 at week 12 (38%) compared to the placebo-treated group (2%) ($p<0.0001$). For patients who received 50 mg once weekly throughout the study, the efficacy responses continued to improve with 71% achieving PASI 75 at week 24.

In long-term (up to 34 months) open-label studies where etanercept was given without interruption, clinical responses were sustained, and safety was comparable to shorter-term studies. An analysis of clinical trial data did not reveal any baseline disease characteristics that would assist clinicians in selecting the most appropriate dosing option (intermittent or continuous). Consequently, the choice of intermittent or continuous therapy should be based upon physician judgment and individual patient needs.

Antibodies to etanercept

Antibodies to etanercept have been detected in the sera of some subjects treated with etanercept. These antibodies have all been non-neutralizing and are generally transient. There appears to be no correlation between antibody development and clinical response or adverse events.

In subjects treated with approved doses of etanercept in clinical trials for up to 12 months, cumulative rates of anti-etanercept antibodies were approximately 6% of subjects with rheumatoid arthritis, 7.5% of subjects with psoriatic arthritis, 2% of subjects with ankylosing spondylitis, 7% of subjects with psoriasis, 9.7% of subjects with paediatric psoriasis, and 4.8% of subjects with juvenile idiopathic

arthritis.

The proportion of subjects who developed antibodies to etanercept in longer-term trials (of up to 3.5 years) increases over time, as expected. However, due to their transient nature, the incidence of antibodies detected at each assessment point was typically less than 7% in rheumatoid arthritis subjects and psoriasis subjects.

In a long-term psoriasis study in which patients received 50 mg twice weekly for 96 weeks, the incidence of antibodies observed at each assessment point was up to approximately 9%.

Pediatric population

Pediatric patients with juvenile idiopathic arthritis
The safety and efficacy of etanercept were assessed in a two-part study in 69 children with polyarticular-course juvenile idiopathic arthritis who had a variety of juvenile idiopathic arthritis onset types (polyarthritis, polyarthritis, systemic onset). Patients aged 4 to 17 years with moderately to severely active polyarticular course juvenile idiopathic arthritis refractory to, or intolerant of, methotrexate were enrolled; patients remained on a stable dose of a single nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug and/or prednisone (< 0.2 mg/kg/day or 10 mg maximum). In part 1, all patients received 0.4 mg/kg (maximum 25 mg per dose) etanercept subcutaneously twice weekly. In part 2, patients with a clinical response at day 90 were randomized to remain on etanercept or receive placebo for four months and assessed for disease flare. Responses were measured using the ACR Pedi 30, defined as 30% improvement in at least three of six and 30% worsening in no more than one of six JRA core set criteria, including active joint count, limitation of motion, physician and patient/parent global assessments, functional assessment, and erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR). Disease flare was defined as a 30% worsening in three of six JRA core set criteria and 30% improvement in not more than one of the six JRA core set criteria and a minimum of two active joints.

In part 1 of the study, 51 of 69 (74%) patients demonstrated a clinical response and entered part 2. In part 2, 6 of 25 (24%) patients remaining on etanercept experienced a disease flare compared to 20 of 26 (77%) patients receiving placebo ($p = 0.007$). From the start of part 2, the median time to flare was 116 days for patients who received etanercept and 28 days for patients who received placebo. Of patients who demonstrated a clinical response at 90 days and entered part 2 of the study, some of the patients remaining on etanercept continued to improve from month 3 through month 7, while those who received placebo did not improve.

In an open-label, safety extension study, 58 pediatric patients from the above study (from the age of 4 years at time of enrolment) continued to receive etanercept for up to 10 years. Rates of serious adverse events and serious infections did not increase with long-term exposure.

Long-term safety of etanercept monotherapy (n = 103), etanercept plus methotrexate (n = 294), or methotrexate monotherapy (n = 197) were assessed for up to 3 years in a registry of 594 children aged 2 to 18 years with juvenile idiopathic arthritis, 39 of whom were 2 to 3 years of age. Overall, infections were more commonly reported in patients treated with etanercept compared to methotrexate alone (3.8 versus 2%), and the infections associated with etanercept use were of a more severe nature.

In another open-label single-arm study, 60 patients with extended oligoarthrits (15 patients aged 2 to 4, 23 patients aged 5 to 11 and 22 patients aged 12 to 17 years old), 38 patients with enthesitis-related arthritis (12 to 17 years old), and 29 patients with psoriatic arthritis (12 to 17 years old) were treated with etanercept at a dose of 0.8 mg/kg (up to a maximum of 50 mg per dose) administered weekly for

12 weeks. In each of the JIA subtypes, the majority of patients met ACR Pedi 30 criteria and demonstrated clinical improvement in secondary endpoints such as number of tender joints and physician global assessment. The safety profile was consistent with that observed in other JIA studies.

Studies have not been done in patients with juvenile idiopathic arthritis to assess the effects of continued etanercept therapy in patients who do not respond within 3 months of initiating etanercept therapy. Additionally, studies have not been conducted to assess the effects of discontinuing or reducing the recommended dose of etanercept following its long-term use in patients with JIA.

Pediatric patients with plaque psoriasis
The efficacy of etanercept was assessed in a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study in 211 pediatric patients aged 4 to 17 years with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis (as defined by an sPGA score ≥3, involving ≥10% of the BSA, and PASI ≥12). Eligible patients had a history of receiving phototherapy or systemic therapy or were inadequately controlled on topical therapy.
Patients received etanercept 0.8 mg/kg (up to 50 mg) or placebo once weekly for 12 weeks. At week 12, more patients randomized to etanercept had positive efficacy responses (e.g., PASI 75) than those randomized to placebo.

Pediatric Plaque Psoriasis Outcomes at 12 Weeks

	Etanercept 0.8 mg/kg Once Weekly (N = 106)	**Placebo (N = 105)**
PASI 75, n (%)	60 (57%) [a]	12(11%)
PASI 50, n (%)	79 (75%)[a]	24 (23%)
sPGA "clear" or "minimal", n (%)	56 (53%)[a]	14 (13%)

Abbreviation: sPGA – static Physician Global Assessment
[a] $p < 0.0001$ compared to placebo

After the 12-week double-blind treatment period, all patients received etanercept 0.8 mg/kg (up to 50 mg) once weekly for additional 24 weeks. Responses observed during the open-label period were similar to those observed in the double-blind period.
During a randomized withdrawal period, significantly more patients re-randomized to placebo experienced disease relapse (loss of PASI 75 response) compared with patients re-randomized to etanercept. With continued therapy, responses were maintained up to 48 weeks.
The long-term safety and effectiveness of etanercept 0.8 mg/kg (up to 50 mg) once weekly was assessed in an open-label extension study of 181 pediatric subjects with plaque psoriasis for up to 2 years beyond the 48week study discussed above. Long-term experience with etanercept was generally comparable to the original 48-week study and did not reveal any new safety findings.

Pharmacokinetic properties
Etanercept serum values were determined by an Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) method, which may detect ELISA-reactive degradation products, as well as the parent compound.

Absorption
Etanercept is slowly absorbed from the site of subcutaneous injection, reaching maximum concentration approximately 48 hours after a single dose. The absolute bioavailability is 76%. With twice-weekly doses, it is anticipated that steady-state concentrations are approximately twice as high as those observed after single doses. After a single subcutaneous dose of 25 mg etanercept, the average maximum serum concentration observed in healthy volunteers was 1.65 ± 0.66 µg/ml, and the area under the curve was 235 ± 96.6 µg × hr/ml. Mean serum concentration profiles at steady state in treated RA patients were Cmax of 2.4 mg/l vs. 2.6 mg/l, Cmin of 1.2 mg/l vs. 1.4 mg/l, and partial AUC of 297 mg × hr/l vs. 316 mg × hr/l for 50 mg etanercept once weekly (n = 21) vs. 25 mg etanercept twice weekly (n = 16), respectively. In an open-label, single-dose, two-treatment,

crossover study in healthy volunteers, etanercept administered as a single 50 mg/ml injection was found to be bioequivalent to two simultaneous injections of 25 mg/ml.

In a population pharmacokinetics analysis in ankylosing spondylitis patients, the etanercept steady state AUCs were 466 µg × hr/ml and 474 µg × hr/ml for 50 mg etanercept once weekly (n = 154) and 25 mg twice weekly (n = 148), respectively.

Distribution
A biexponential curve is required to describe the concentration time curve of etanercept. The central volume of distribution of etanercept is 7.6 L, while the volume of distribution at steady- state is 10.4L.

Elimination
Etanercept is cleared slowly from the body. The half-life is long, approximately 80 hours. Clearance is approximately 0.066 l/hr in patients with rheumatoid arthritis, somewhat lower than the value of 0.11 L/hr observed in healthy volunteers. Additionally, the pharmacokinetics of etanercept in rheumatoid arthritis patients, ankylosing spondylitis and plaque psoriasis patients are similar.
There is no apparent pharmacokinetic difference between males and females.

Linearity
Dose proportionality has not been formally evaluated, but there is no apparent saturation of clearance across the dosing range.

Special populations
Renal impairment
Although there is elimination of radioactivity in urine after administration of radiolabeled etanercept to patients and volunteers, increased etanercept concentrations were not observed in patients with acute renal failure. The presence of renal impairment should not require a change in dosage.

Hepatic impairment
Increased etanercept concentrations were not observed in patients with acute hepatic failure. The presence of hepatic impairment should not require a change in dosage.

Elderly
The impact of advanced age was studied in the population pharmacokinetic analysis of etanercept serum concentrations. Clearance and volume estimates in patients aged 65 to 87 years were similar to estimates in patients less than 65 years of age.

Pediatric population
Pediatric patients with juvenile idiopathic arthritis
In a polyarticular-course juvenile idiopathic arthritis trial with etanercept, 69 patients (aged 4 to 17 years) were administered 0.4 mg etanercept/kg twice weekly for three months. Serum concentration profiles were similar to those seen in adult rheumatoid arthritis patients. The youngest children (4 years of age) had reduced clearance (increased clearance when normalized by weight) compared with older children (12 years of age) and adults. Simulation of dosing suggests that while older children (10-17 years of age) will have serum levels close to those seen in adults, younger children will have appreciably lower levels.

Pediatric patients with plaque psoriasis
Patients with pediatric plaque psoriasis (aged 4 to 17 years) were administered 0.8 mg/kg (up to a maximum dose of 50 mg per week) of etanercept once weekly for up to 48 weeks. The mean serum steady-state trough concentrations ranged from 1.6 to 2.1 mcg/ml at weeks 12, 24, and 48. These mean

concentrations in patients with pediatric plaque psoriasis were similar to the concentrations observed in patients with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (treated with 0.4 mg/kg etanercept twice weekly, up to maximum dose of 50 mg per week). These mean concentrations were similar to those seen in adult patients with plaque psoriasis treated with 25 mg etanercept twice-weekly.

Preclinical safety data

In the toxicological studies with etanercept, no dose-limiting or target organ toxicity was evident. Etanercept was considered to be non-genotoxic from a battery of *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies. Carcinogenicity studies, and standard assessments of fertility and postnatal toxicity, were not performed with etanercept due to the development of neutralizing antibodies in rodents.

Etanercept did not induce lethality or notable signs of toxicity in mice or rats following a single subcutaneous dose of 2,000 mg/kg or a single intravenous dose of 1,000 mg/kg. Etanercept did not elicit dose-limiting or target organ toxicity in cynomolgus monkeys following twice weekly subcutaneous administration for 4 or 26 consecutive weeks at a dose (15 mg/kg) that resulted in AUC based serum drug concentrations that were over 27- fold higher than that obtained in humans at the recommended dose of 25 mg.

CLINICAL PARTICULARS

Therapeutic indications

Rheumatoid arthritis

Treatment of signs and symptoms and inhibiting the progression of structural damage in patients with moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Nepexto® can be used in combination with methotrexate in patients who do not respond adequately to methotrexate alone.

Polyarticular Juvenile idiopathic arthritis

Treatment of active polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis in children and adolescents from the age of 2 years who have had an inadequate response to, or who have proved intolerant of, methotrexate. Etanercept has not been studied in children aged less than 2 years.

Psoriatic arthritis

Nepexto® is indicated for reducing signs and symptoms of active arthritis in patients with psoriatic arthritis. Nepexto® can be used in combination with methotrexate in patients who do not respond adequately to methotrexate alone.

Axial spondyloarthritis

Ankylosing spondylitis

Treatment of active ankylosing spondylitis in adults.

Non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis

Treatment of adults with active* non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis with objective signs of inflammation as indicated by elevated C-reactive protein (CRP) and/or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) evidence, who have had an inadequate response to nonsteroidal anti- inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).

*Active disease is defined as Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI) score of ≥4.

Plaque psoriasis

Treatment of adults with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis who failed to respond to, or who have a contraindication to, or are intolerant to other systemic therapy, including ciclosporin, methotrexate or psoralen and ultraviolet-A light (PUVA) (see section “Pharmacodynamic properties”).

Pediatric plaque psoriasis
Treatment of chronic severe plaque psoriasis in children and adolescents from the age of 6 years who are inadequately controlled by, or are intolerant to, other systemic therapies or phototherapies.

Posology and method of administration
Nepexto® treatment should be initiated and supervised by specialist physicians experienced in the diagnosis and treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis, plaque psoriasis or pediatric plaque psoriasis.

Posology
Adults (18-64 years)
Rheumatoid arthritis
25 mg etanercept administered twice weekly is the recommended dose. Alternatively, 50 mg administered once weekly has been shown to be safe and effective (see section "Pharmacodynamic properties").

Psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis and non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis
The recommended dose is 25 mg etanercept administered twice weekly, or 50 mg administered once weekly.

Plaque psoriasis
The recommended dose of etanercept is 25 mg administered twice weekly or 50 mg administered once weekly. Alternatively, 50 mg given twice weekly may be used for up to 12 weeks followed, if necessary, by a dose of 25 mg twice weekly or 50 mg once weekly. Treatment with Nepexto® should continue until remission is achieved, for up to 24 weeks. Continuous therapy beyond 24 weeks may be appropriate for some adult patients. Treatment should be discontinued in patients who show no response after 12 weeks. If re-treatment with Etanercept is indicated, the same guidance on the treatment duration should be followed. The dose should be 25 mg twice weekly or 50 mg once weekly.

Special populations
Renal and hepatic impairment
No dose adjustment is required.

Elderly
No dose adjustment is required.
Posology and administration are the same as for adults 18-64 years of age.

Pediatric population
The dosage of etanercept is based on body weight for pediatric patients. Patients weighing less than 62.5 kg should be accurately dosed on a mg/kg basis using the powder and solvent for solution for injection presentations or powder for solution for injection presentations (see below for dosing for specific indications). Patients weighing 62.5 kg or more may be dosed using a fixed-dose pre-filled syringe or pre-filled pen.

Nepexto is available as 50 mg pre-filled pen. Thus, it is not possible to administer Nepexto to pediatric patients that required less than 50 mg dose. Pediatric patients who require a dose other than a full 50 mg should not receive Nepexto. If an alternate dose is required, other etanercept products

offering such an option should be used.

Polyarticular Juvenile idiopathic arthritis
The recommended dose is 0.4 mg/kg (up to a maximum of 25 mg per dose), after reconstitution of Nepexto® in 1 mL of solvent, given twice weekly as a subcutaneous injection with an interval of 3-4 days between doses. Discontinuation of treatment should be considered in patients who show no response after 4 months.

No formal clinical trials have been conducted in children aged 2 to 3 years. However, limited safety data from a patient registry suggest that the safety profile in children from 2 to 3 years of age is similar to that seen in adults and children aged 4 years and older, when dosed every week with 0.8 mg/kg subcutaneously (see section "Pharmacodynamic properties").

There is generally no applicable use of etanercept in children aged below 2 years in the indication juvenile idiopathic arthritis.

Pediatric plaque psoriasis (age 6 years and above)
The recommended dose is 0.8 mg/kg (up to a maximum of 50 mg per dose) once weekly for up to 24 weeks. Treatment should be discontinued in patients who show no response after 12 weeks.
If re-treatment with Nepexto® is indicated, the above guidance on treatment duration should be followed. The dose should be 0.8 mg/kg (up to a maximum of 50 mg per dose) once weekly.

There is generally no applicable use of etanercept in children aged below 6 years in the indication plaque psoriasis.

Method of administration
Administer Nepexto® as subcutaneous injections in the thigh, abdomen, or upper arm. Give each new injection at least 3 cm from a previous site. Do NOT inject into areas where the skin is tender, bruised, red, or hard.

Patients or caregivers who are to administer Nepexto® must be instructed in injection techniques. The first injection should be performed under the supervision of a qualified health care professional if Nepexto® is to be administered by a patient or caregiver

Solution for injection in pre-filled pen
Nepexto® single-use pre-filled pen should be allowed to reach room temperature (approximately 30 minutes). The needle cover/cap should not be removed while allowing the pre-filled pen to reach room temperature. The solution should be colourless to light yellow, clear to opalescent.

Missed doses
If a dose is missed, patients should be advised to administer the dose as soon as they remember, unless the next scheduled dose is the next day, in which case the missed dose should be skipped. Patients should continue to inject the medicine on their usual day(s). If a patient does not remember until the day that the next injection is due, instruct the patient not to take a double dose.

Pediatric use
Etanercept has not been studied in children <2 years of age (see section "Therapeutic Indication"). For pediatric specific safety information concerning malignancies, vaccinations and inflammatory bowel disease, see sections "Special Warnings and Precautions for Use and Undesirable Effects".

Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients listed in section "List of excipients".

Sepsis or risk of sepsis.

Treatment with Nepexto® should not be initiated in patients with active infections, including chronic or localized infections.

Special warnings and precautions for use

Infections

Serious infections, including sepsis and tuberculosis (TB), have been reported with the use of Nepexto® (see section "Undesirable effects"). Some of these infections have been fatal. These infections were due to bacteria, mycobacteria, fungi, viruses and parasites (including protozoa). Opportunistic infections have also been reported (including listeriosis and legionellosis). Patients who develop a new infection while undergoing treatment with Nepexto® should be monitored closely. Administration of Nepexto® should be discontinued if a patient develops a serious infection. Caution should be exercised when considering the use of Nepexto® in patients with a history of recurring or chronic infections or with underlying conditions which may predispose patients to infections (see sections "Contraindications and Undesirable effects").

Patients should be evaluated for infections before, during and after treatment with Nepexto®, taking into consideration that the mean elimination half-life of Nepexto® is 80 hours (standard deviation of 28 hours; range from 7 to 300 hours). Opportunistic infections, including invasive fungal infections, have been reported in patients receiving Nepexto®. In some cases, fungal and other opportunistic infections are not recognized, and this has resulted in delays in appropriate treatment, sometimes resulting in death. In many of the reports, patients have also received concomitant medicines including immunosuppressants. In evaluating patients for infections, healthcare providers should consider the patient's risk for relevant opportunistic infections (e.g.: exposure to endemic mycoses).

Tuberculosis (TB)

Tuberculosis (including disseminated or extrapulmonary presentation) has been observed in patients receiving TNF-blocking agents, including Nepexto®. Tuberculosis may be due to reactivation of latent TB infection or to new infection.

Before initiation of therapy with Nepexto®, any patient at increased risk for TB should be evaluated for active or latent infection. Prophylaxis of latent TB infection should be initiated prior to therapy with Nepexto®. Some patients who tested negative for latent TB prior to receiving Nepexto® have developed active TB. Physicians should monitor patients receiving Nepexto® for signs and symptoms of active TB, including patients who tested negative for latent TB infection. Applicable local guidelines should be consulted. Patients with RA appear to have an increased rate of TB infection.

Hepatitis B reactivation

Reactivation of hepatitis B in patients who were previously infected with the hepatitis B virus (HBV) and had received concomitant anti-TNF agents including Nepexto® has been reported. The majority of these reports have occurred in patients concomitantly receiving other medications that suppress the immune system, which may also contribute to hepatitis B reactivation. Patients at risk for HBV infection should be evaluated for prior evidence of HBV infection before initiating anti-TNF therapy. Caution should be exercised when administering Nepexto® in patients previously infected with HBV. These patients should be monitored for signs and symptoms of active HBV infection.

Worsening of hepatitis C
There have been reports of worsening of hepatitis C in patients receiving Nepexto®, although a causal relationship with Nepexto® has not been established.

Concurrent treatment with anakinra
Concurrent administration of Nepexto® and anakinra has been associated with an increased risk of serious infections and neutropenia. This combination has not demonstrated increased clinical benefit; such use is not recommended (see section "Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction").

Concurrent treatment with abatacept
In clinical studies, concurrent administration of abatacept and etanercept resulted in increased incidences of serious adverse events. This combination has not demonstrated increased clinical benefit; such use is not recommended.

Wegener's granulomatosis
In a placebo-controlled study of 180 patients with Wegener's granulomatosis, the addition of etanercept to standard treatment (including cyclophosphamide and high-dose steroids) was no more efficacious than standard treatment alone. The group of patients who received etanercept experienced more non-cutaneous malignancies of various types than the patient group receiving standard treatment alone. The use of Nepexto® for treatment of Wegener's granulomatosis is not recommended.

Alcoholic hepatitis
In a study of 48 hospitalized patients treated with etanercept or placebo for moderate to severe alcoholic hepatitis [mean Model of End-stage Liver Disease (MELD) score = 25], Etanercept was not efficacious and the mortality rate in patients treated with etanercept was significantly higher after 6 months. Infections were also higher in the group treated with etanercept. The use of Nepexto® in patients for the treatment of alcoholic hepatitis is not recommended. Physicians should use caution when using Nepexto® in patients who also have moderate to severe alcoholic hepatitis.

Allergic reactions
Parenteral administration of any biological product should be attended by appropriate precautions in case an allergic or untoward reaction occurs. Allergic reactions associated with Nepexto® administration have been reported commonly. Allergic reactions have included angioedema and urticaria; serious reactions have occurred. If any serious allergic or anaphylactic reaction occurs, the administration of Nepexto® should be discontinued immediately and appropriate therapy initiated.

Immunosuppression
Anti-TNF therapies, including Nepexto®, may affect host defenses against infections and malignancies since TNF mediates inflammation and modulates cellular immune responses.

Malignancies and lymphoproliferative disorders
Solid and hematopoietic malignancies (excluding skin cancers)
Reports of malignancies affecting various sites have been received in the post-marketing period. In the controlled portions of clinical trials of TNF-antagonists, more cases of lymphoma have been observed among patients receiving a TNF-antagonist compared with control patients. However, the occurrence was rare, and the follow-up period for placebo patients was shorter than for patients receiving TNF-antagonist therapy. Cases of leukemia have been reported in patients treated with TNF-antagonists. There is an increased background risk for lymphoma and leukemia in rheumatoid arthritis patients with long-standing, highly active, inflammatory disease, which complicates the risk

estimation. Post hoc analyses of rheumatoid arthritis clinical trials with Nepexto® have neither confirmed nor excluded an increased risk for malignancies. Malignancies (particularly Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's lymphomas), some fatal, have been reported among children and adolescents who received treatment with TNF-antagonists, including Nepexto®. Most of the patients were receiving concomitant immunosuppressants. Based on current knowledge, a possible risk for the development of lymphomas or other hematopoietic or solid malignancies in patients treated with a TNF-antagonist cannot be excluded.

Skin cancer
Melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC) have been reported in patients treated with TNF-antagonists, including etanercept. Post marketing cases of Merkel cell carcinoma have been reported very infrequently in patients treated with etanercept. Periodic skin examination is recommended for all patients, particularly those with risk factors for skin cancer.

Combining the results of controlled portions of clinical trials of Nepexto®, more cases of NMSC were observed in patients receiving etanercept compared with control patients, particularly in patients with psoriasis.

Hematologic reactions
Rare cases of pancytopenia and very rare cases of aplastic anaemia, some with fatal outcome, have been reported in patients treated with Nepexto®. Caution should be exercised in patients being treated with Nepexto® who have a previous history of blood dyscrasias. All patients should be advised that if they develop signs and symptoms suggestive of blood dyscrasias or infections (e.g., persistent fever, sore throat, bruising, bleeding, paleness) whilst on Nepexto®, they should seek immediate medical advice. Such patients should be evaluated urgently, including full blood count; if blood dyscrasias are confirmed, Nepexto® should be discontinued.

Autoantibody formation
Treatment with Nepexto® may be associated with the formation of autoimmune antibodies (see section “Undesirable effects”).

Vaccinations
In a double-blind, placebo-controlled, randomized clinical study in patients with psoriatic arthritis, 184 patients also received a multivalent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine at week 4. In this study most psoriatic arthritis patients receiving Nepexto® were able to mount effective B-cell immune response to pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine, but titers in aggregate were moderately lower and fewer patients had two-fold rises in titers compared to patients not receiving Nepexto®. The clinical significance of this is unknown. Live vaccines should not be given concurrently with Nepexto®. If possible, bring pediatric patients up to date with immunizations according to current local guidelines before beginning Nepexto® therapy.

Neurological disorders
Although no clinical trials have been performed evaluating Nepexto® therapy in patients with multiple sclerosis, clinical trials of other TNF antagonists in patients with multiple sclerosis have shown increases in disease activity. There have been rare reports of central nervous system (CNS) demyelinating disorders in patients treated with Etanercept (see section “Undesirable effects”).

Additionally, there have been rare reports of peripheral demyelinating polyneuropathies (including

Guillain-Barré syndrome). A careful risk/benefit evaluation, including a neurological assessment, is recommended when prescribing Etanercept therapy to patients with pre-existing or recent onset of demyelinating disease, or to those who are considered to have an increased risk of developing demyelinating disease.

Renal and hepatic impairment
Based on pharmacokinetic data, no dose adjustment is needed in patients with renal or hepatic impairment; clinical experience in such patients is limited.

Congestive heart failure (cardiac failure congestive)
There have been post-marketing reports of worsening of congestive heart failure (CHF), with and without identifiable precipitating factors, in patients taking Nepexto®. There have also been rare (<0.1%) reports of new onset CHF, including CHF in patients without known pre-existing cardiovascular disease. Some of these patients have been under 50 years of age. Two large clinical trials evaluating the use of Nepexto® in the treatment of CHF were terminated early due to lack of efficacy. Although not conclusive, data from one of these trials suggest a possible tendency toward worsening CHF in those patients assigned to Nepexto® treatment. In addition, a clinical trial evaluating the use of infliximab (a monoclonal antibody that binds to TNF-alpha) in the treatment of CHF was terminated early due to an increase in mortality among infliximab treated patients. Physicians should use caution when using Nepexto® in patients who also have CHF.

Hypoglycemia in patients treated for diabetes
There have been reports of hypoglycemia following initiation of etanercept in patients receiving medicinal products for diabetes, necessitating a reduction in anti-diabetic medicinal products in some of these patients.

Interchangeability and Automatic Substitution
Nepexto® has been developed as a Biosimilar Product to Enbrel (Etanercept) and is similar in quality, safety and efficacy to Enbrel (Etanercept). Nepexto® is approved for all indications of Enbrel (Etanercept). Nepexto® is not automatically substitutable or interchangeable with the reference product.

Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction
Concurrent treatment with anakinra
Adult patients treated with etanercept and anakinra were observed to have a higher rate of serious infection when compared with patients treated with either etanercept or anakinra alone (historical data).
In addition, in a double-blind, placebo-controlled trial in adult patients receiving background methotrexate, patients treated with etanercept and anakinra were observed to have a higher rate of serious infections (7%) and neutropenia than patients treated with etanercept. The combination etanercept and anakinra has not demonstrated increased clinical benefit, and is therefore, not recommended.

Concurrent treatment with abatacept
In clinical studies, concurrent administration of abatacept and etanercept resulted in increased incidences of serious adverse events. This combination has not demonstrated increased clinical benefit; such use is not recommended.

Concurrent treatment with sulfasalazine
In a clinical study of adult patients who were receiving established doses of sulfasalazine, to which etanercept was added, patients in the combination group experienced a statistically significant

decrease in mean white blood cell counts in comparison to groups treated with etanercept or sulfasalazine alone. The clinical significance of this interaction is unknown. Physicians should use caution when considering combination therapy with sulfasalazine.

Non-interactions
In clinical trials, no interactions have been observed when etanercept was administered with glucocorticoids, salicylates (except sulfasalazine), nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), analgesics, or methotrexate. No clinically significant pharmacokinetic drug-drug interactions were observed in studies with methotrexate, digoxin or warfarin.

Fertility, pregnancy and lactation
Women of childbearing potential
Women of childbearing potential should consider the use of appropriate contraception to avoid becoming pregnant during Nepexto® therapy and for three weeks after discontinuation of therapy.

Pregnancy
Developmental toxicity studies performed in rats and rabbits have revealed no evidence of harm to the foetus or neonatal rat due to etanercept. The effects of etanercept on pregnancy outcomes have been investigated in two observational cohort studies. A higher rate of major birth defects was observed in an observational study comparing pregnancies exposed to etanercept during the first trimester, with pregnancies not exposed to etanercept (n<370) or other TNF-antagonists (n=164) (adjusted odds ratio 2.4, 95% CI: 1.0-5.5). The types of major birth defects were consistent with those most commonly reported in the general population and no particular pattern of abnormalities was identified. No change in the rate of spontaneous abortion, stillbirth, or minor malformations was observed. Nepexto® is not recommended during pregnancy. In another observational multi-country registry study comparing the risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes in women exposed to etanercept during the first 90 days of pregnancy (n=425) to those exposed to non-biologic drugs (n=3497), there was no observed increased risk of major birth defects (crude odds ratio [OR]=1.22, 95% CI: 0.79-1.90; adjusted OR=0.96, 95% CI: 0.58-1.60 after adjusting for country, maternal disease, parity, maternal age and smoking in early pregnancy). This study also showed no increased risks of minor birth defects, preterm birth, stillbirth, or infections in the first year of life for infants born to women exposed to etanercept during pregnancy. Nepexto® should only be used during pregnancy if clearly needed.

Etanercept crosses the placenta and has been detected in the serum of infants born to female patients treated with etanercept during pregnancy. The clinical impact of this is unknown, however, infants may be at increased risk of infection. Administration of live vaccines to infants for 16 weeks after the mother's last dose of Nepexto® is generally not recommended.

In another observational multi-country registry study comparing the risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes in women exposed to etanercept during the first 90 days of pregnancy (n=425) to those exposed to non-biologic drugs (n=3497), there was no observed increased risk of major birth defects (crude odds ratio [OR]=1.22, 95% CI: 0.79-1.90; adjusted OR=0.96, 95% CI: 0.58-1.60 after adjusting for country, maternal disease, parity, maternal age and smoking in early pregnancy). This study also showed no increased risks of minor birth defects, preterm birth, stillbirth, or infections in the first year of life for infants born to women exposed to etanercept during pregnancy.
Nepexto® should only be used during pregnancy if clearly needed.

Breast-feeding

In lactating rats following subcutaneous administration, etanercept was excreted in the milk and detected in the serum of pups. Limited information from the published literature indicates etanercept has been detected at low levels in human milk. Etanercept could be considered for use during breast-feeding taking into account the benefit of breast-feeding for the child and the benefit of therapy for the woman.

While systemic exposure in a breastfed infant is expected to be low because etanercept is largely degraded in the gastrointestinal tract, limited data regarding systemic exposure in the breastfed infant are available. Therefore, the administration of live vaccines (e.g., BCG) to a breastfed infant when the mother is receiving etanercept could be considered 16 weeks after stopping breast-feeding (or at an earlier timepoint if the infant etanercept serum levels are undetectable).

Fertility
Preclinical data about peri- and postnatal toxicity of etanercept and of effects of etanercept on fertility and general reproductive performance are not available.

Effects on ability to drive and use machines
No studies on the effects on the ability to drive and use machines have been performed.

Undesirable effects
Summary of the safety profile:
The most commonly reported adverse reactions are injection site reactions (such as pain, swelling, itching, reddening and bleeding at the puncture site), infections (such as upper respiratory infections, bronchitis, bladder infections and skin infections) headache, allergic reactions, development of autoantibodies, itching, and fever.

Serious adverse reactions have also been reported for etanercept. TNF-antagonists, such as etanercept, affect the immune system and their use may affect the body's defenses against infection and cancer. Serious infections affect fewer than 1 in 100 patients treated with etanercept. Reports have included fatal and life-threatening infections and sepsis. Various malignancies have also been reported with use of etanercept, including cancers of the breast, lung, skin and lymph glands (lymphoma).

Serious hematological, neurological and autoimmune reactions have also been reported. These include rare reports of pancytopenia and very rare reports of aplastic anemia. Central and peripheral demyelinating events have been seen rarely and very rarely, respectively, with etanercept use. There have been rare reports of lupus, lupus-related conditions, and vasculitis.

Tabulated list of adverse reactions
The following list of adverse reactions is based on experience from clinical trials in adults and on post marketing experience.

Within each System Organ Class, adverse reactions are listed under headings of frequency (number of patients expected to experience the reaction), using the following categories: very common (≥1/10); common (≥1/100 to <1/10); uncommon (≥1/1,000 to <1/100); rare (≥1/10,000 to <1/1,000); very rare (<1/10,000); not known (cannot be estimated from the available data).

System Organ Class	Very Common ≥1/10	Common ≥1/100 to <1/10	Uncommon ≥1/1,000 to <1/100	Rare ≥1/10,000 to <1/1,000	Very Rare <1/10,000	Frequency Not Known (Cannot be Estimated from Available Data)
Infections and	Infection		Serious	Tuberculosis,		Hepatitis B

System Organ Class	Very Common ≥1/10	Common ≥1/100 to <1/10	Uncommon ≥1/1,000 to <1/100	Rare ≥1/10,000 to <1/1,000	Very Rare <1/10,000	Frequency Not Known (Cannot be Estimated from Available Data)
infestations	(including upper respiratory tract infection, bronchitis, cystitis, skin infection)*		Infections (including pneumonia, cellulitis, arthritis bacterial, sepsis and parasitic infection)*	opportunistic infection (including invasive fungal, protozoal, bacterial, atypical mycobacterial, viral infections, and Legionella)*		reactivation, listeria
Neoplasms benign, malignant and unspecified (including cysts and polyps)			Non-melanoma skin cancers*	Malignant melanoma, lymphoma, leukaemia		Merkel cell carcinoma Kaposi's sarcoma
Blood and lymphatic system disorders			Thrombocytopenia, anaemia, leukopenia, neutropenia	Pancytopenia*	Aplastic anaemia*	Histiocytosis haematophagic (macrophage activation syndrome)*
Immune system disorders		Allergic reactions (see Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders), autoantibody formation*	Vasculitis (including antineutrophilic cytoplasmic antibody positive vasculitis)	Serious allergic/anaphylactic reactions (including angioedema, bronchospasm), sarcoidosis		Worsening of symptoms of dermatomyositis
Nervous system disorders	Headache*			CNS demyelinating events suggestive of multiple sclerosis or localised demyelinating conditions, such as optic neuritis and transverse myelitis, peripheral demyelinating events, including Guillain-Barré syndrome, chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, demyelinating polyneuropathy, and multifocal motor neuropathy, seizure		
Eye disorders			Uveitis, scleritis			
Cardiac disorders			Worsening of cardiac failure congestive	New onset cardiac failure congestive		
Respiratory, thoracic, and				Interstitial lung disease		
mediastinal disorders				(including neumonitis and pulmonary fibrosis)*		
Gastrointestinal disorders			Inflammatory bowel disease*			
Hepatobiliary disorders			Elevated liver enzymes*	Autoimmune hepatitis*		
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders		Pruritus, rash	Angioedema, psoriasis (including new onset or worsening and pustular, primarily palms and soles), urticaria, psoriasiform rash	Stevens-Johnson syndrome, cutaneous vasculitis (including hypersensitivity vasculitis), erythema multiforme	Toxic epidermal necrolysis	
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders				Cutaneous lupus erythematosus, subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus,		

System Organ Class	Very Common ≥1/10	Common ≥1/100 to <1/10	Uncommon ≥1/1,000 to <1/100	Rare ≥1/10,000 to <1/1,000	Very Rare <1/10,000	Frequency Not Known (Cannot be Estimated from Available Data)
				lupus-like syndrome		
Renal and urinary disorders				glomerulonephritis		
General disorders and administration site conditions	Injection site reactions (including bleeding, bruising, erythema, itching, pain, swelling)*	Pyrexia				

* see Description of selected adverse reactions, below

Description of selected adverse reactions

Malignancies and lymphoproliferative disorders

One hundred and twenty-nine (129) new malignancies of various types were observed in 4,114 rheumatoid arthritis patients treated in clinical trials with etanercept for up to approximately 6 years, including 231 patients treated with etanercept in combination with methotrexate in the 2-year active controlled study. The observed rates and incidences in these clinical trials were similar to those expected for the population studied. A total of 2 malignancies were reported in clinical studies of approximately 2 years duration involving 240 etanercept-treated psoriatic arthritis patients. In clinical studies conducted for more than 2 years with 351 ankylosing spondylitis patients, 6 malignancies were reported in etanercept-treated patients. In a group of 2,711 plaque psoriasis patients treated with etanercept in double-blind and open-label studies of up to 2.5 years, 30 malignancies and 43 nonmelanoma skin cancers were reported.

In a group of 7,416 patients treated with etanercept in rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis and psoriasis clinical trials, 18 lymphomas were reported.

Reports of various malignancies (including breast and lung carcinoma and lymphoma) have also been received in the post marketing period.

Injection site reactions

Compared to placebo, patients with rheumatic diseases treated with etanercept had a significantly higher incidence of injection site reactions (36% vs. 9%). Injection site reactions usually occurred in the first month. Mean duration was approximately 3 to 5 days. No treatment was given for the majority of injection site reactions in the etanercept treatment groups, and the majority of patients who were given treatment received topical preparations, such as corticosteroids, or oral antihistamines. Additionally, some patients developed recall injection site reactions characterized by a skin reaction at the most recent site of injection, along with the simultaneous appearance of injection site reactions at previous injection sites. These reactions were generally transient and did not recur with treatment. In controlled trials in patients with plaque psoriasis, approximately 13.6% of patients treated with etanercept developed injection site reactions compared with 3.4% of placebo-treated patients during the first 12 weeks of treatment.

Serious infections

In placebo-controlled trials, no increase in the incidence of serious infections (fatal, life- threatening, or requiring hospitalization or intravenous antibiotics) was observed. Serious infections occurred in 6.3% of rheumatoid arthritis patients treated with etanercept for up to 48 months. These included abscess (at various sites), bacteremia, bronchitis, bursitis, cellulitis, cholecystitis, diarrhea, diverticulitis, endocarditis (suspected), gastroenteritis, hepatitis B, herpes zoster, leg ulcer, mouth

infection, osteomyelitis, otitis, peritonitis, pneumonia, pyelonephritis, sepsis, septic arthritis, sinusitis, skin infection, skin ulcer, urinary tract infection, vasculitis, and wound infection. In the 2-year active controlled study where patients were treated with either etanercept alone, methotrexate alone or etanercept in combination with methotrexate, the rates of serious infections were similar among the treatment groups. However, it cannot be excluded that the combination of etanercept with methotrexate could be associated with an increase in the rate of infections.

There were no differences in rates of infection among patients treated with etanercept and those treated with placebo for plaque psoriasis in placebo-controlled trials of up to 24 weeks duration. Serious infections experienced by etanercept-treated patients included cellulitis, gastroenteritis, pneumonia, cholecystitis, osteomyelitis, gastritis, appendicitis, Streptococcal fasciitis, myositis, septic shock, diverticulitis and abscess. In the double-blind and open-label psoriatic arthritis trials, 1 patient reported a serious infection (pneumonia).

Serious and fatal infections have been reported during use of etanercept; reported pathogens include bacteria, mycobacteria (including tuberculosis), viruses and fungi. Some have occurred within a few weeks after initiating treatment with etanercept in patients who have underlying conditions (e.g., diabetes, congestive heart failure, history of active or chronic infections) in addition to their rheumatoid arthritis. Nepexto® treatment may increase mortality in patients with established sepsis.

Opportunistic infections have been reported in association with etanercept, including invasive fungal, parasitic (including protozoal), viral (including herpes zoster), bacterial (including Listeria and Legionella), and atypical mycobacterial infections. In a pooled data set of clinical trials, the overall incidence of opportunistic infections was 0.09% for the 15,402 subjects who received etanercept. The exposure-adjusted rate was 0.06 events per 100 patient-years. In post marketing experience, approximately half of all of the case reports of opportunistic infections worldwide were invasive fungal infections. The most commonly reported invasive fungal infections included Candida, Pneumocystis, Aspergillus, and Histoplasma. Invasive fungal infections accounted for more than half of the fatalities amongst patients who developed opportunistic infections. The majority of the reports with a fatal outcome were in patients with Pneumocystis pneumonia, unspecified systemic fungal infections, and aspergillosis.

Autoantibodies
Adult patients had serum samples tested for autoantibodies at multiple timepoints. Of the rheumatoid arthritis patients evaluated for antinuclear antibodies (ANA), the percentage of patients who developed new positive ANA (≥1:40) was higher in patients treated with etanercept (11%) than in placebo treated patients (5%). The percentage of patients who developed new positive anti-double-stranded DNA antibodies was also higher by radioimmunoassay (15% of patients treated with etanercept compared to 4% of placebo-treated patients) and by Crithidia luciliae assay (3% of patients treated with etanercept compared to none of placebo-treated patients). The proportion of patients treated with etanercept who developed anticardiolipin antibodies was similarly increased compared to placebo treated patients. The impact of long-term treatment with etanercept on the development of autoimmune diseases is unknown.

There have been rare reports of patients, including rheumatoid factor positive patients, who have developed other autoantibodies in conjunction with a lupus-like syndrome or rashes that are compatible with subacute cutaneous lupus or discoid lupus by clinical presentation and biopsy.

Pancytopenia and aplastic anemia
There have been post marketing reports of pancytopenia and aplastic anemia, some of which had fatal outcomes.

Interstitial lung disease
In controlled clinical trials of etanercept across all indications, the frequency (incidence proportion) of interstitial lung disease in patients receiving etanercept without concomitant methotrexate was 0.06% (frequency rare). In the controlled clinical trials that allowed concomitant treatment with etanercept and methotrexate, the frequency (incidence proportion) of interstitial lung disease was 0.47% (frequency uncommon). There have been post marketing reports of interstitial lung disease (including pneumonitis and pulmonary fibrosis), some of which had fatal outcomes.

Concurrent treatment with anakinra
In studies when adult patients received concurrent treatment with etanercept plus anakinra, a higher rate of serious infections compared to etanercept alone was observed and 2% of patients (3/139) developed neutropenia (absolute neutrophil count < 1,000/mm^3). While neutropenic, one patient developed cellulitis that resolved after hospitalization.

Elevated liver enzymes
In the double-blind periods of controlled clinical trials of etanercept across all indications, the frequency (incidence proportion) of adverse events of elevated liver enzymes in patients receiving etanercept without concomitant methotrexate was 0.54% (frequency uncommon). In the double-blind periods of controlled clinical trials that allowed concomitant treatment with etanercept and methotrexate, the frequency (incidence proportion) of adverse events of elevated liver enzymes was 4.18% (frequency common).

Autoimmune hepatitis,
In controlled clinical trials of etanercept across all indications, the frequency (incidence proportion) of autoimmune hepatitis in patients receiving etanercept without concomitant methotrexate was 0.02% (frequency rare). In the controlled clinical trials that allowed concomitant treatment with etanercept and methotrexate, the frequency (incidence proportion) of autoimmune hepatitis was 0.24% (frequency uncommon).

Pediatric population
Undesirable effects in pediatric patients with juvenile idiopathic arthritis
In general, the adverse events in pediatric patients with juvenile idiopathic arthritis were similar in frequency and type to those seen in adult patients. Differences from adults and other special considerations are discussed in the following paragraphs.

The types of infections seen in clinical trials in juvenile idiopathic arthritis patients aged 2 to 18 years were generally mild to moderate and consistent with those commonly seen in outpatient pediatric populations. Severe adverse events reported included varicella with signs and symptoms of aseptic meningitis, which were resolved without sequelae, appendicitis, gastroenteritis, depression/personality disorder, cutaneous ulcer, esophagitis/gastritis, group A streptococcal septic shock, type I diabetes mellitus, and soft tissue and post-operative wound infection.

In one study in children with juvenile idiopathic arthritis aged 4 to 17 years, 43 of 69 (62%) children experienced an infection while receiving etanercept during 3 months of the study (part 1, open-label), and the frequency and severity of infections was similar in 58 patients completing 12 months of open label extension therapy. The types and proportion of adverse events in juvenile idiopathic arthritis patients were similar to those seen in trials of etanercept in adult patients with rheumatoid arthritis, and the majority were mild. Several adverse events were reported more commonly in 69 juvenile idiopathic arthritis patients receiving 3 months of etanercept compared to the 349 adult rheumatoid

arthritis patients. These included headache (19% of patients, 1.7 events per patient year), nausea (9%, 1.0 event per patient year), abdominal pain (19%, 0.74 events per patient year), and vomiting (13%, 0.74 events per patient year).

There were 4 reports of macrophage activation syndrome in juvenile idiopathic arthritis clinical trials. There have been reports of inflammatory bowel disease and uveitis in JIA patients being treated with etanercept from post-marketing sources, including a very small number of cases indicating a positive re-challenge.

Undesirable effects in pediatric patients with plaque psoriasis
In a 48-week study in 211 children aged 4 to 17 years with pediatric plaque psoriasis, the adverse events reported were similar to those seen in previous studies in adults with plaque psoriasis.

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions
Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorization of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via the national reporting system.

Overdose
No dose-limiting toxicities were observed during clinical trials of rheumatoid arthritis patients. The highest dose level evaluated has been an intravenous loading dose of 32 mg/m^2 followed by subcutaneous doses of 16 mg/m^2 administered twice weekly. One rheumatoid arthritis patient mistakenly self-administered 62 mg etanercept subcutaneously twice weekly for 3 weeks without experiencing undesirable effects. There is no known antidote to etanercept.

PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS
Active Ingredient
- Etanercept

List of excipients
- Trisodium citrate dihydrate
- Sodium dihydrogen phosphate dihydrate
- Glycine
- Sucrose
- Sodium chloride
- Water for Injection

Incompatibilities
In the absence of compatibility studies, this medicinal product must not be mixed with other medicinal products.

Shelf life
Please refer to carton/label.

Special precautions for storage
Store in a refrigerator at 2- 8°C. Do not freeze.
Keep out of the sight and reach of children.
Keep the pre-filled pens in the outer carton in order to protect from light.

Nepexto® may be stored at temperatures up to a maximum of 25°C for a single period of up to four

weeks; after which, it should not be refrigerated again. Nepexto® should be discarded if not used within four weeks of removal from refrigeration.

Special precautions for disposal and other handling

Before injection, Nepexto® single-use pre-filled pens should be allowed to reach room temperature (approximately 30 minutes). The needle cover should not be removed while allowing the pre-filled pen to reach room temperature. By looking through the inspection window, the solution should be clear to opalescent, colourless to yellow and may contain small translucent or white particles of protein.

Comprehensive instructions for administration are given in the IFU (Instructions for use).

Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements

Nature and contents of container

Nepexto pre-filled pen is a single use, disposable combination product designed for use a long with 1.0ml prefilled- syringe (PFS) with 27G 1/2inch needle with rigid needle shield (RNS) containing Etanercept solution for injection.

Nepexto® is available in pack containing One 1 ml single use Pre-filled Pen per box.

Manufactured and Released by:
Lupin Limited (Biotech Division)
Gat No. 1156, 1157,1158, 1159 and 1160,
Village- Ghotawade, Taluka-Mulshi,
Dist: Pune – 412115, India.

Product Registration Holder:
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Imported and Distributed by:
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