Etanercept: anti-tumor necrosis factor therapy for rheumatoid arthritis

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Record Status
This is a bibliographic record of a published health technology assessment from a member of INAHTA. No evaluation of the quality of this assessment has been made for the HTA database.

Citation

Authors' objectives
To summarise the available evidence on the use of etanercept, a tumor necrosis factor (TNF) antagonist, in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

Authors' conclusions
Canadian clinical and economic data comparing methotrexate and etanercept alone versus etanercept in combination with methotrexate would be necessary before informed predictions could be made on its cost-effectiveness in our health care system. While the direct costs of this therapy are high, if etanercept controls the disease more effectively than current treatments, or earlier in the progression of the disease, it may have incremental cost-effectiveness. In addition, factors such as the timing of initial treatment, adverse effects, and the possibility that anti-TNF therapies may reduce the patient's defense against infection and malignancy, must also be taken into consideration prior to implementation.

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