

Learn what is a biosimilar drug



What is a biosimilar drug?

A biosimilar drug is highly similar to the original drug already approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

They are produced from the same types of sources (e.g. living cells, microorganisms). Biosimilars have no significant differences from the brand-name biologic drugs in terms of quality, safety, or efficacy.

Examples of biosimilar drugs

Biosimilar drugs are a cost-effective treatment alternative, used to treat chronic diseases, such as diabetes, arthritis, multiple sclerosis, kidney conditions, cancer, chronic skin diseases, macular degeneration, bowels, among others. Some examples of biosimilar drugs are:

Branded biological drugs	Biosimilar drug name
Humira®	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• adalimumab-adbm (Cyltezo® unbranded)• Hadlima™ (adalimumab-bwwd)• Simlandi® inj (adalimumab-ryvk)
Remicade®	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inflectra®• Renflexis®• Avsola®
Herceptin®	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kanjinti®• Trazimera®
Lucentis®	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Byooviz™• Cimerli®
Neupogen®	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zarxio®• Nivestym®

Myths and facts about biosimilars

Myth	Fact
"Not as effective as the original drug"	Just as effective as the original biological drug.
"Are of lower quality"	Its quality is rigorously evaluated.
"Are not safe"	Meet the same quality standards as the original drugs.

The FDA ensures that biosimilars are just as safe as brand-name biologics. Because they have no clinically significant differences from the brand-name product, you can expect the same safety and efficacy of the biosimilar drug in treatment.

If you are currently being treated with a biologic drug, talk to your doctor and ask if a biosimilar drug is an option for you.

References:

<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/therapeutic-biologics-applications-bla/biosimilars>

<https://purplebooksearch.fda.gov/>

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