

TABLE 380-2 DMARDs USED FOR THE TREATMENT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Drug	Dosage	Serious Toxicities	Other Common Side Effects	Initial Evaluation	Monitoring
Hydroxychloroquine	200–400 mg/d orally (≤6.5 mg/kg)	Irreversible retinal damage Cardiotoxicity Blood dyscrasia	Nausea Diarrhea Headache Rash	Eye examination if >40 years old or prior ocular disease	Funduscopy and visual field testing every 12 months
Sulfasalazine	Initial: 500 mg orally twice daily Maintenance: 1000–1500 mg twice daily	Granulocytopenia Hemolytic anemia (with G6PD deficiency)	Nausea Diarrhea Headache	CBC, LFTs G6PD level	CBC every 2–4 weeks for first 3 months, then every 3 months
Methotrexate	10–25 mg/week orally or SQ Folic acid 1 mg/d to reduce toxicities	Hepatotoxicity Myelosuppression Infection Interstitial pneumonitis Pregnancy category X	Nausea Diarrhea Stomatitis/mouth ulcers Alopecia Fatigue	CBC, LFTs Viral hepatitis panel ^a Chest x-ray	CBC, creatinine, LFTs every 2–3 months
Leflunomide	10–20 mg/d	Hepatotoxicity Myelosuppression Infection Pregnancy category X	Alopecia Diarrhea	CBC, LFTs Viral hepatitis panel ^a	CBC, creatinine, LFTs every 2–3 months
TNF-α Inhibitors	Infliximab: 3 mg/kg IV at weeks 0, 2, 6, then every 8 weeks. May increase dose up to 10 mg/kg every 4 weeks Etanercept: 50 mg SQ weekly, or 25 mg SQ biweekly Adalimumab: 40 mg SQ every other week Golimumab: 50 mg SQ monthly Certolizumab: 400 mg SQ weeks 0, 2, 4, then 200 mg every other week	↑ Risk bacterial, fungal infections Reactivation of latent TB ↑ Lymphoma risk (controversial) Drug-induced lupus Neurologic deficits As above As above As above As above	Infusion reaction ↑ LFTs Injection site reaction Injection site reaction Injection site reaction Injection site reaction	PPD skin test PPD skin test PPD skin test PPD skin test	LFTs periodically Monitor for injection site reactions Monitor for injection site reactions Monitor for injection site reactions Monitor for injection site reactions
Abatacept	Weight based: <60 kg: 500 mg 60–100 kg: 750 mg >100 kg: 1000 mg IV dose at weeks 0, 2, and 4, and then every 4 weeks OR 125 mg SQ weekly	↑ Risk bacterial, viral infections	Headache Nausea	PPD skin test	Monitor for infusion reactions
Anakinra	100 mg SQ daily	↑ Risk bacterial, viral infections Reactivation of latent TB Neutropenia	Injection site reaction Headache	PPD skin test CBC with differential	CBC every month for 3 months, then every 4 months for 1 year Monitor for injection site reactions
Rituximab	1000 mg IV × 2, days 0 and 14 May repeat course every 24 weeks or more Premedicate with methylprednisolone 100 mg to decrease infusion reaction	↑ Risk bacterial, viral infections Infusion reaction Cytopenia Hepatitis B reactivation	Rash Fever	CBC Viral hepatitis panel ^a	CBC at regular intervals

(Continued)