

MYTH

FACT

Biologics are harmful to the body

Biologics can be very effective, but like all medications, they can cause side effects. These may include diarrhea, fever and rash. Since biologics change the way our immune systems work, they are also linked to a higher risk of infection. Those who take biologics are monitored by their doctors for infection and other severe effects.

Biologics are only for those with severe disease

Biologics can be used to treat moderate and severe symptoms of many health conditions including psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis and certain types of cancer. Biologics are most commonly prescribed when other treatments have not been effective.

Biologics cause cancer

It used to be thought that a type of biologic called Tumor-Necrosis Factor (TNF) inhibitor increased the risk of cancer. However, studies have shown that the increase is likely due to the illness for which the person is taking a TNF inhibitor, rather than the biologic itself.

Biologics make me gain weight

It is not currently clear whether biologics cause weight gain. However, often those who take biologics are feeling better and regain the appetite that they may have lost due to their illness, leading to an increase in weight.