

## Supplementary tables for systemic non-biologic treatment of psoriasis pathway

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## Supplementary tables for systemic non-biologic treatment of psoriasis pathway

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**Table 1. Baseline Screening, monitoring, and labs for systemic non-biologic and treatment of psoriasis**

	Acitretin	Apremilast	Cyclosporine	Fumaric acid esters*	Methotrexate	Tofacitinib*
<b>Baseline screening, monitoring, and labs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>History and physical examination</li> <li>Lipid profile, CBC, LFT, renal function tests</li> <li>Pregnancy test if indicated</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>History and physical examination</li> <li>BP x 2</li> <li>BUN and SCr</li> <li>Urinalysis</li> <li>Consider latent TB test</li> <li>LFT, CBC, lipid profile, magnesium, uric acid, and potassium</li> <li>Pregnancy test if indicated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>History and physical examination</li> <li>CBC</li> <li>Serum chemistry screen</li> <li>Urinalysis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>History and physical examination</li> <li>TB and hepatitis B and C</li> <li>Non-invasive baseline liver fibrosis assessment (Fibrotest®, Fibrosure®, Fibrometer®, or Hepascore®)</li> </ul> <p><u>Additional monitoring recommended for patients with impaired kidney function</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BUN and SCr Check</li> <li>CBC 5-7 days after a test-dose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CBC with diff., CMP, and lipid profile</li> <li>TB, hepatitis B and C, and HIV</li> <li>Vaccination with recombinant zoster vaccine prior to initiation of therapy should be considered</li> </ul>

\* Not FDA approved for psoriasis in the US

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	Azathioprine*	Hydroxyurea*	Leflunomide*	Mycophenolate mofetil*	Thioguanine*	Tacrolimus*
<b>Baseline screening, monitoring, and labs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>History and physical examination</li> <li>TPMT level prior to initiation of therapy</li> <li>LFT, CBC with differential, CMP, and urinalysis</li> <li>TB and hepatitis B and C screen</li> <li>Pregnancy test if indicated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>History and physical examination</li> <li>CBC</li> <li>Pregnancy test if indicated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>History and physical examination</li> <li>CBC with differential and LFT</li> <li>Pregnancy test if indicated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>History and physical examination</li> <li>CBC, serum chemistry, and LFT</li> <li>Pregnancy test if indicated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>History and physical examination</li> <li>CBC, CMP, LFT</li> <li>Hepatitis B and C and TB screen</li> <li>Pregnancy test if indicated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>History and physical examination</li> <li>CBC with differential</li> <li>Pregnancy test if indicated</li> </ul>

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**Table 2.** Ongoing monitoring for systemic non-biologic treatment of psoriasis

	Acitretin	Apremilast	Cyclosporine	Fumaric acid esters*	Methotrexate	Tofacitinib*
<b>Ongoing monitoring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LFT and lipid profile monthly for the first 3 months, then every 3 months</li> <li>CBC count, renal function tests every 3 months</li> <li>Pregnancy test if indicated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Routine laboratory screening and monitoring can be considered on an individual basis.</li> <li>Weight should be monitored regularly, and if weight loss occurs (&gt; 5% from baseline), discontinuation of apremilast should be considered</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor BP, BUN, and SCr biweekly during the first 3 months and then monthly if no persistent abnormalities are identified</li> <li>Monthly CBC, LFT, lipid profile, magnesium, uric acid, and potassium</li> <li>Pregnancy testing if indicated</li> <li>Weekly blood pressure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CBC biweekly for the first 2 months; monthly until 6 months; and bimonthly thereafter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor CBC every 3-6 months, assuming no abnormal laboratory results</li> <li>LFT every 3-6 months</li> <li>Periodic renal monitoring for patients with poor renal function</li> <li>Liver evaluation if used long-term</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CBC with differential, CMP, and lipid profile at 4-8 weeks after the initiation, then every 3 months thereafter</li> </ul>

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	Azathioprine*	Hydroxyurea*	Leflunomide*	Mycophenolate mofetil*	Thioguanine*	Tacrolimus†*
<b>Ongoing monitoring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CBC with differential biweekly for the first 2 months, monthly for the next 2 months, every 2 months thereafter</li> <li>LFT monthly for the first 3 months, then every 2 months thereafter</li> <li>Semiannual physical examination focusing on evidence of lymphadenopathy and NMSCs</li> <li>Pregnancy testing if indicated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weekly CBC until a stable dose is achieved, then monthly</li> <li>Semiannual physical examination focusing on evidence of lymphadenopathy and NMSCs</li> <li>Pregnancy testing if indicated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly CBC with differential and LFT for the first 6 months and every 6-8 weeks thereafter</li> <li>Pregnancy testing if indicated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CBC weekly for 1 month; every 2 weeks thereafter for 2 months; then monthly thereafter</li> <li>Monthly CMP and LFT</li> <li>Semiannual physical examination focusing on evidence of lymphadenopathy and NMSCs</li> <li>Pregnancy testing if indicated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CBC every 2-4 weeks; CMP every 3 months</li> <li>Semiannual physical examination focusing on evidence of lymphadenopathy and NMSCs</li> <li>Pregnancy test if indicated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BP</li> <li>Serum chemistry</li> <li>Renal function test</li> <li>LFT</li> <li>Pregnancy test if indicated</li> </ul>

† Proper monitoring frequency is not established

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**Table 3. Adverse effects for systemic non-biologic treatment of psoriasis**

	Acitretin	Apremilast	Cyclosporine	Fumaric acid esters*	Methotrexate	Tofacitinib*
<b>Adverse effects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheilitis</li> <li>Alopecia</li> <li>Xerosis</li> <li>Pruritus</li> <li>Xerophthalmia</li> <li>Night blindness</li> <li>Dry Mouth</li> <li>Paronychia</li> <li>Paresthesia</li> <li>Headache</li> <li>Pseudotumor cerebri</li> <li>Nausea</li> <li>Abdominal pain</li> <li>Joint pain</li> <li>Myalgia</li> <li>Hypertriglyceridemia</li> <li>Abnormal LFT</li> <li>Teratogenicity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diarrhea, nausea, upper respiratory tract infections, and headache</li> <li>Dehydration and its complications in &gt; 65 years</li> <li>Emergence or worsening of depression</li> <li>Weight loss</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renal impairment (acute &amp; chronic)</li> <li>Hypertension</li> <li>Malignancies</li> <li>Headache, tremor, and paresthesia</li> <li>Hypertrichosis</li> <li>Gingival Hyperplasia</li> <li>Worsening acne</li> <li>Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea</li> <li>Myalgias</li> <li>Flu-like symptoms</li> <li>Lethargy</li> <li>Hypertriglyceridemia</li> <li>Hyperkalemia</li> <li>Hyperbilirubinemia</li> <li>Increased risk of infections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anaphylaxis/angioedema</li> <li>Abdominal cramps, nausea, diarrhea, fullness, and flatulence</li> <li>Flushing</li> <li>Malaise</li> <li>Fatigue</li> <li>Lymphopenia, leukopenia, eosinophilia</li> <li>Hepatotoxicity and elevated LFT</li> <li>Increased cholesterol, triglycerides</li> <li>Increased serum creatinine, potassium, and proteinuria</li> <li>Possible renal disease</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fatigue</li> <li>Anorexia</li> <li>Nausea</li> <li>Stomatitis</li> <li>Pneumonitis</li> <li>Myelosuppression</li> <li>Epidermal necrolysis</li> <li>Hepatotoxicity</li> <li>Hematologic toxicity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nasopharyngitis</li> <li>Infections</li> <li>Blood clots</li> <li>Malignancies</li> <li>Abnormal LFT, lipid, and creatinine levels</li> <li>Lymphopenia, neutropenia, and anemia</li> </ul>

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	Azathioprine*	Hydroxyurea*	Leflunomide*	Mycophenolate mofetil*	Thioguanine*	Tacrolimus*
<b>Adverse effects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bone-marrow suppression</li> <li>• Malignancies</li> <li>• Cutaneous SCCs</li> <li>• Lymphoproliferative disorders</li> <li>• Increased risk of infections</li> <li>• Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea</li> <li>• Hypersensitivity syndrome</li> <li>• Pancreatitis</li> <li>• Hepatitis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bone-marrow suppression</li> <li>• Stomatitis, anorexia, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and constipation</li> <li>• Rash, ulceration, dermatomyositis-like skin changes, and alopecia</li> <li>• Dysuria (rare)</li> <li>• Headache, dizziness, disorientation, hallucinations, and convulsions</li> <li>• Temporary impairment of renal tubular function accompanied by elevated serum uric acid, BUN, and creatinine</li> <li>• Fever, chills, malaise, edema, and asthenia</li> <li>• Elevated LFT</li> <li>• Pulmonary fibrosis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most common adverse effects include nausea, diarrhea, loss of appetite, weight loss, headache, dizziness</li> <li>• Severe liver injury</li> <li>• Pancytopenia, agranulocytosis, and thrombocytopenia in patients treated with or who had recently discontinued methotrexate or other immunosuppressive agents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GI adverse effects (diarrhea, nausea/vomiting, abdominal cramps); occur early and decrease with continued use</li> <li>• Hematologic (leukopenia, anemia, and thrombocytopenia)</li> <li>• Genitourinary (urgency, frequency, dysuria, and sterile pyuria)</li> <li>• Susceptibility to viral, bacterial, and mycobacterial infections</li> <li>• Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy</li> <li>• Hypercholesterolemia, hypophosphatemia, hyperkalemia, hypokalemia</li> <li>• Fever and myalgias</li> <li>• Headache, insomnia</li> <li>• Peripheral edema</li> <li>• Hypertension</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Myelosuppression</li> <li>• Liver toxicity from hepatic veno-occlusive disease</li> <li>• Increased ALT and AST</li> <li>• Hyperuricemia</li> <li>• Photodermatitis</li> <li>• Taste changes</li> <li>• Gastroesophageal reflux, gastric ulcers</li> <li>• Headache</li> <li>• Nausea/vomiting</li> <li>• Aphthous ulcers</li> <li>• Fatigue</li> <li>• Nonmelanoma skin cancer</li> <li>• Verrucae vulgaris, herpes zoster</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common: tremor, headache, nausea, diarrhea, hypertension, and abnormal renal function test</li> <li>• Less common: hyperglycemia, hyperkalemia, elevated LFT, anemia, leukocytosis, dyspnea, fever, arthralgias, edema, diabetes, insomnia, paresthesia</li> </ul>

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**Table 4.** Contraindications for non-biologic systemic therapy for psoriasis

	Acitretin	Apremilast	Cyclosporine	Fumaric acid esters*	Methotrexate	Tofacitinib*
<b>Contraindications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acitretin is a potent teratogen in women of childbearing potential</li> <li>Females of childbearing potential cannot consider pregnancy up to 3 years after completion of treatment.</li> <li>Severely impaired liver or kidney function</li> <li>Chronic abnormally elevated blood lipid levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Known hypersensitivity to apremilast</li> <li>Do not use with cytochrome P450 enzyme inducers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prior PUVA treatment (especially &gt;200 treatments) or radiation therapy</li> <li>Abnormal renal function</li> <li>Uncontrolled hypertension</li> <li>Malignancy</li> <li>Hypersensitivity to cyclosporine</li> <li>Live vaccinations should be avoided</li> <li>Caution with major infections and poorly controlled diabetes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe liver disease</li> <li>Severe or chronic GI disease</li> <li>Severe or chronic kidney disease</li> <li>Malignancy or a history of malignancy</li> <li>Leukopenia and other hematologic abnormalities</li> <li>Pregnancy</li> <li>Breast-feeding</li> </ul>	<p><b>Absolute:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pregnancy</li> <li>Nursing</li> <li>Alcoholism</li> <li>Alcoholic liver disease or other chronic liver diseases</li> <li>Immunodeficiency syndromes</li> <li>Bone-marrow hypoplasia, leukopenia, thrombocytopenia, or significant anemia</li> <li>Hypersensitivity to methotrexate</li> </ul> <p><b>Relative:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abnormalities in renal function</li> <li>Abnormalities in liver function</li> <li>Active infection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tofacitinib should not be initiated if the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Absolute lymphocyte count &lt; 500 cells/mm<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Absolute Neutrophil Count (ANC) &lt; 1000 cells/mm<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Hemoglobin &lt; 9g/dL</li> </ul> </li> <li>Severe hepatic impairment</li> <li>Active serious infections</li> </ul>

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	Azathioprine*	Hydroxyurea*	Leflunomide*	Mycophenolate mofetil*	Thioguanine*	Tacrolimus*
<b>Contraindications</b>	<p><b>Absolute</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allergy to azathioprine</li> <li>Pregnancy or attempting pregnancy</li> <li>Clinically significant active infection</li> </ul> <p><b>Relative</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concurrent use of allopurinol</li> <li>Prior treatment with cyclophosphamide or chlorambucil</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marked bone-marrow suppression, including leukopenia, thrombocytopenia, or anemia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patients with hypersensitivity to leflunomide or its metabolites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hypersensitivity to mycophenolate mofetil (MMF) and mycophenolic acid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-existing liver disease</li> <li>Immunosuppression</li> <li>Anemia, leukopenia, or thrombocytopenia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hypersensitivity to tacrolimus or its metabolites</li> </ul>

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**Table 5.** Vaccines and systemic non biologic treatment for psoriasis

	Acitretin	Apremilast	Cyclosporine	Fumaric acid esters	Methotrexate	Tofacitinib
Vaccines			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Live vaccinations should be avoided</li> <li>• May have a drug interaction with killed or recombinant vaccines</li> </ul>			
	Azathioprine	Hydroxyurea	Leflunomide	Mycophenolate mofetil*	Thioguanine	Tacrolimus
Vaccines				Live attenuated vaccines should not be given during the treatment		

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**Table 6. Pregnancy and Nursing during Systemic Biologic-treatment for Psoriasis**

	Acitretin	Apremilast	Cyclosporine	Fumaric acid esters*	Methotrexate	Tofacitinib*
<b>Pregnancy &amp; Nursing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should not be used by patients who are pregnant or intend to become pregnant for at least 3 years following discontinuation of therapy</li> <li>Mothers receiving acitretin should not breastfeed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should only be used in pregnancy if the benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lower birth weight and shorter duration of pregnancy reported in patients with transplantation; appears not to be teratogenic in patients with transplantation</li> <li>Cyclosporine is present in breast milk; a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or cyclosporine based on the benefit of therapy to the patient</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should not be used during pregnancy or nursing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should not be used during pregnancy or nursing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tofacitinib can be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.</li> </ul>

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	Azathioprine*	Hydroxyurea*	Leflunomide*	Mycophenolate mofetil*	Thioguanine*	Tacrolimus*
<b>Pregnancy &amp; Nursing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should not be used during pregnancy and nursing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should not be used during pregnancy and nursing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should not be used during pregnancy and nursing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should not be used during pregnancy and nursing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should not be used during pregnancy and nursing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It can be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit to the mother justifies the potential risk to the fetus</li> <li>Should not be used during nursing</li> </ul>

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**Table 7. Dosing for non-biologic systemic therapies for psoriasis treatment**

	Acitretin	Apremilast	Cyclosporine	Fumaric acid esters*	Methotrexate	Tofacitinib*
<b>Dosing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10-50 mg/d given as a single dose</li> <li>Lower doses (<math>\leq</math> 25 mg/d) are often used to minimize adverse effects, especially in combination regimens</li> <li>When acitretin is added to UV, the light dose should be reduced by 30%-50%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patients should initially start at a lower dose (10 mg) which is titrated up over five days to reduce the risk of GI AEs. Thereafter, apremilast is dosed 30 mg by mouth twice daily.</li> <li>Dosage Titration Schedule:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Day 1 – 10 mg (AM)</li> <li>Day 2 – 10 mg (AM &amp; PM)</li> <li>Day 3 – 10 mg (AM); 20 mg (PM)</li> <li>Day 4 – 20 mg (AM &amp; PM)</li> <li>Day 5 – 20 mg (AM); 30 mg (PM)</li> <li>Day 6 – 30 mg (AM &amp; PM)</li> </ul> </li> <li>30 mg once daily in patients with severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance &lt; 30 mL/min)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.5-5.0 mg/kg/d in two divided doses/day</li> <li>Dose adjustments downward (by 0.25-1.0 mg/kg) when clearance of psoriasis is achieved or when hypertension or decreased renal function are observed</li> <li>US approval: 1 y continuous treatment</li> <li>Optimally used as interventional therapy; may be repeated at intervals after a rest period</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One pill of lower strength (105 mg of fumaric acid ester mixtures) and then escalate over 8 weeks to 6 pills of regular strength (215 mg of fumaric acid ester mixtures), as tolerated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7.5 -25 mg weekly as a single dose or in three doses over 24 hours</li> <li>A test dose should be considered, especially in patients with impaired kidney function</li> <li>Administration of folic acid or folinic acid is recommended to reduce the incidence of GI and hepatic adverse effects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5-10 mg twice daily</li> <li>5mg once daily for moderate to severe renal or hepatic impairment</li> </ul>

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	Azathioprine*	Hydroxyurea*	Leflunomide*	Mycophenolate mofetil*	Thioguanine*	Tacrolimus*
<b>Dosing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin at 0.5 mg/kg, and monitor for cytopenia</li> <li>If no cytopenia, increase dose by 0.5 mg/kg/d</li> <li>After 6-8 wks increase by 0.5 mg/kg/d every 4 wks if necessary</li> <li>The usual dose for psoriasis is 75-150 mg/d</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An initial dose of 500 mg twice daily, increasing to 3 g/day as tolerated.</li> <li>A dose of 3-4.5 g/week has also been used.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loading dose of 100 mg/day for 3 days, followed by 20 mg/day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.0-1.5 g orally two times/day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start at 80 mg two times/week; increase by 20 mg every 2-4 weeks</li> <li>Maximum dose is 160 mg 3 times/week</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.05-0.15 mg/kg</li> </ul>

For more information, see: [aad.org/guidelines](https://aad.org/guidelines)



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## Supplementary tables for systemic non-biologic treatment of psoriasis pathway

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**Table 8.** Combination therapy for non-biologic systemic treatment of psoriasis

	Acitretin	Apremilast	Cyclosporine	Fumaric acid esters	Methotrexate	Tofacitinib*
<b>List of combination therapies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acitretin + PUVA</li> <li>Acitretin + BB-UVB</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is currently no substantial evidence to support the combined use of apremilast with other systemic or phototherapy treatments for psoriasis.</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Methotrexate + NB-UVB</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It can be used with methotrexate</li> <li>Should not be combined with potent immunosuppressants such as azathioprine and cyclosporine or with biologics</li> <li>Not enough evidence to support the combined use of tofacitinib with other systemic agents or phototherapy</li> </ul>

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