

# Fact Sheet

News from the IBD Help Center

## IMMUNOMODULATORS

Immunomodulators are medicines that change how the immune system works in order to reduce inflammation in the body. A doctor may use immunomodulators when other medicines don't work well in managing Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.

Other important points to know about this class of medication:

- Immunomodulators can be taken alone or in combination with other medications to make them more effective.
- They can be taken orally, injected, or applied as creams (for skin problems).
- Common immunomodulators taken for IBD include azathioprine, 6-MP, cyclosporine, tacrolimus, and methotrexate.
- It can take 3-6 months for immunomodulators to start working. Your doctor may give you another fast-acting medication at the same time (i.e., a steroid or biologic).
- Patients taking immunomodulators should be regularly vaccinated for flu, pneumonia, and shingles.

[Animated Video](#)

[View the full list of FDA-approved immunomodulators commonly prescribed for IBD](#)

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