

Normal Dose of Leflunomide

→ *Rheumatoid arthritis:*

Adults:

100 mg daily for 3 days then 10–20 mg daily ^[1]

If higher dose is not tolerated (maximum dose: 20 mg once daily).

Loading dose may be omitted given the higher likelihood of side effects (e.g., diarrhea), and especially in patients at increased risk of hepatic or hematologic toxicity (e.g., recent concomitant methotrexate or other immunosuppressive agents); onset of action may be delayed

NB: Due to the long half-life of the active metabolite, serum concentrations may require a prolonged period to decline after dosage reduction. ^{[2][3]}

Geriatrics:

Refer to adult dosing. ^[4]

[1]- Ashley, Caroline, and Aileen Dunleavy. 2018. *The Renal Drug Handbook: The Ultimate Prescribing Guide for Renal Practitioners*, 5th Edition. 5th ed. London, England: Routledge,
https://www.medicinainterna.net.pe/sites/default/files/The_Renal_Drug_Handbook_The_Ultimate.pdf

[2] – (Lexi Drugs) (Maddison, P., Kiely, P., Kirkham, B., Lawson, T., Moots, R., Proudfoot, D., Reece, R., Scott, D., Sword, R., Taggart, A., Thwaites, C., & Williams, E. (2005). Leflunomide in rheumatoid arthritis: recommendations through a process of consensus. *Rheumatology (Oxford, England)*, 44(3), 280–286.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/rheumatology/keh500>

[3] – (Lexi Drugs) (Osiri, M., Shea, B., Robinson, V., Suarez-Almazor, M., Strand, V., Tugwell, P., & Wells, G. (2003). Leflunomide for treating rheumatoid arthritis. *The Cochrane database of systematic reviews*, 2002(1), CD002047. <https://doi.org/10.1002/14651858.CD002047>

[4] Lexi Drugs
https://online.lexi.com/lco/action/doc/retrieve/docid/patch_f/6369?cesid=apb29GWJ6Nf&searchUr=%2Ffco%2Faction%2Fsearch%3Fq%3Datg%26t%3Dname%26va%3Datg

