



REMICADE INFUSION

At the **DDA Infusion Centers** located in Catonsville and Columbia, we treat patients with autoimmune disorders such as Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis. Patients with rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis and psoriasis are also treated at the Centers. These diseases result from the overproduction of tumor necrosis factor (TNF), a type of cell that causes inflammation. This inflammation can be found in the GI tract, joints and/or skin, and can lead to disease flares.

One of the medications we infuse, Remicade (infliximab), is often referred to as an "anti-TNF agent" or "steroid sparing" medication. Remicade is a highly engineered medication (a monoclonal antibody) that is designed to block the activity of TNF leading to decreased inflammation and the improvement of symptoms related to the disease. The goal of Remicade is to reduce the signs and symptoms of moderate to severe disease activity, thereby lessening the long term complications of the disease.

Here at the DDA Infusion Center our goal is to provide you with the highest level of quality care. We are unique in that our patients are cared for by Susan Kohnke, C.R.N.P., a Nurse Practitioner who received her bachelors and masters degrees in nursing from Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. Patients of the DDA Infusion Center benefit from over 12 years of infusion experience. In addition, she is actively involved in educating other nurses across the country in proper infusion techniques and how to handle any potential problems which may result from the infusion treatment. Susan provides each patient a full evaluation with each infusion and she remains with our patients during their entire infusion.

We have strived to make our infusion centers as comfortable and as user friendly as possible. It is our belief that patients with chronic diseases should not be treated like "sick" patients. Below are some of the comments from patients of the Center:

- "there is a social atmosphere,"
- "it's great to talk to other patients with similar issues,"
- "it's the only time I don't hear mommy, mommy,"
- "we feel well cared for," and
- "I've had infusions in the hospital, but I prefer to come to DDA."