Health and Social Care Board

Interface Pharmacist Network Specialist Medicines

Galcanezumab (Emgality®) for migraine

GP Information Sheet

Introduction

Galcanezumab is a humanised IgG4 monoclonal antibody that binds calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) thus preventing its biological activity. Elevated blood concentrations of CGRP have been associated with migraine attacks.

Galcanezumab can be considered an appropriate option for those patients attending secondary care and patients suffering from more than 4 migraine days per month who are over the age of 18 and would benefit from treatment.

In Northern Ireland, galcanezumab (Emgality®) is accepted for use as an option for preventing migraine in adults, only if:

- they have 4 or more migraine days a month.
- at least 3 preventive drug treatments have failed.
- the company provides it according to the commercial arrangement.

For further information see NICE TA659 https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta659

Dosage and Administration

The recommended dose is 120 mg galcanezumab injected subcutaneously once monthly, with a 240 mg loading dose as the initial dose. The treatment benefit should be assessed within 3 months after initiation of treatment.

Galcanezumab is initiated by secondary care who will also arrange training to support self-administration by the patient and prescribed and dispensed in primary care.

After training, patients may self-inject galcanezumab.

Sharps boxes 4L should also be supplied.

Available as

Emgality® pre-filled pen containing 120mg of galcanezumab in 1mL.

Store in a refrigerator (2 – 8 °C).

Emgality® may be stored unrefrigerated for up to 7 days when stored at temperatures up to 30 °C. If these conditions are exceeded, the pre-filled pen must be discarded.

Monitoring Requirements

There is no monitoring required for this agent itself.

Response to treatment is assessed by the specialist at clinic appointment.

Adverse Effects, Precautions and Contraindications

Commonly reported side effects are administration site conditions: injection site pain, injection site reactions, injection site erythema, injection site pruritus, injection site bruising, injection site swelling, pruritus, rash, urticaria, constipation, vertigo, anaphylaxis and angioedema.

Common Drug Interactions

No drug interaction studies have been conducted. No pharmacokinetic drug interactions are expected based on the characteristics of galcanezumab.

Communication

For any queries relating to this patient's treatment with galcanezumab, please contact the specialist.

This information is not inclusive of all prescribing information and potential adverse effects.
Please refer to full prescribing data in the SPC or the BNF

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