Satakunnan hyvinvointialue

Ixekizumab, TALTZ ® – in the treatment of rheumatic diseases

Indications

Ixekizumab is used for treatment of active arthritic psoriasis when sufficient treatment response is not achieved with traditional antirheumatic drugs or other biologic antirheumatic drugs or they cannot be used.

Drug product and mode of action

Ixekizumab belongs to a class of drugs called biologic drugs. Cytokines, which provide communication between cells, maintain the inflammatory reaction in rheumatoid arthritis and other inflammatory joint diseases. Ixekizumab is an Interleukine-17A (IL-17A) antagonist that neutralises the biological activity of IL-17A cytokine. It soothes joint inflammation and prevents it from progressing.

Dosage and method of administration

Ixekizumab is given as a subcutaneous injection (under the skin) using either a prefilled 80 mg syringe or injector pen. The starting dose is 160 mg (two 80 mg injections). After this, a maintenance dose (80 mg) is given once every four weeks. In patients with moderate or severe skin psoriasis, the dosage 160 mg once every two weeks may be used for the first 12 weeks, followed by a maintenance dose of 80 mg once every four weeks.

Adverse effects

Possible adverse effects include skin reactions at injection site, such as redness and itching. Ixekizumab may increase susceptibility to infections, such as fungal and respiratory infections. Allergic reactions and severe infections are relatively rare, however. The use of the drug must be stopped for the duration of infections with fever or infections that require treatment with antibiotics.

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Ixekizumab should not be used during pregnancy and breastfeeding. It is recommended that the use of the drug is stopped 10 weeks before a planned pregnancy.

Treatment follow-up

Safety tests are taken **a month after onset of treatment, and then once every 3–6 months, at doctor's discretion**. The safety tests include the following: **Basic blood count, B-NEUT and ALT**.
CREA, U-ChemScr, CRP and **ESR** are measured in connection with treatment assessment before doctor's appointment every 6–12 months.

Other considerations

Ixekizumab is stopped at least four weeks before and two weeks after surgery. The operation is timed so that it takes place when the next dose would be taken. In the case of individual patients, the duration of the drug pause also depends on the type and urgency of the operation, patient's overall infection risk, and risk of recurrence of the underlying illness. The use of the drug may be restarted once the wound has healed properly.
Vaccines that contain live attenuated organisms should not be given during treatment. Before the onset of treatment, any dental procedures required must be completed and vaccinations must be up to date.

Link Reumalääkkeiden ohjeet | Reumatalo.fi | Terveyskylä.fi(in Finnish)

Wellbeing services county of Satakunta