Satakunnan hyvinvointialue

Adalimumab, AMGEVITA®, HULIO®, HUMIRA®, HYRIMOZ ® – in the treatment of rheumatic diseases

Indications

Adalimumab is used for treatment of indications such as rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis (Bechterew's disease), arthritic psoriasis and juvenile arthritis when sufficient treatment response is not achieved with traditional antirheumatic drugs or they cannot be used.

Drug product and mode of action

Adalimumab 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. In terms of inflammation, the most important cytokines include TNF (Tumour Necrosis Factor). Adalimumab is a TNF antibody that neutralises the biological activity of TNF. It soothes joint inflammation, prevents it from progressing, and prevents joint damage.

Dosage and method of administration

Adalimumab is given as a subcutaneous injection (under the skin) 40 mg every two weeks, using either a prefilled syringe or injector pen.

Adverse effects

The most common adverse effect is local skin irritation at the injection site, such as redness, pain or itching. Other adverse effects that may occur include respiratory infections, rash, itching, headache, worsening of heart failure and changes in blood count. Allergic reactions are relatively rare, however. Adalimumab may increase susceptibility to infections. The use of the drug must be stopped for the duration of infections with fever or infections that require treatment with antibiotics. The risk of tuberculosis must be investigated before the onset of treatment.

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Adalimumab is withdrawn when pregnancy is diagnosed. Its use may be considered up to pregnancy week 20. During breastfeeding, the drug may be used after the first week of breastfeeding.

Treatment follow-up

Safety tests are taken **a month after onset of treatment, and then once every 3–6 months**. The results are checked at the health centre. 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

Adalimumab is stopped for at least two weeks before and after surgery. The operation should be 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 nature and urgency of the operation, patient's overall infection risk, and risk of recurrence of the underlying illness. The drug may be restarted once the wound has healed properly.
Vaccines that contain live attenuated organisms must 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)

Satasairaala Wellbeing services county of Satakunta
For Satasairaala's website, go to www.satasairaala.fi