Satakunnan hyvinvointialue

Secukinumab, COSENTYX ® – in the treatment of rheumatic diseases

Indications

Secukinumab is used for treatment of active arthritic psoriasis and ankylosing spondylitis (Bechterew´s disease) 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

Secukinumab 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. Secukinumab is an Interleukin-17A (IL-17A) antagonist that neutralises the biological activity of IL-17A cytokine. Secukinumab soothes joint inflammation and prevents it from progressing.

Dosage and method of administration

Secukinumab is given as a subcutaneous injection (under the skin) using a prefilled 150 mg syringe or injector pen. The first five times, the drug is administered once a week, followed by a maintenance dose given once a month. In some cases, a single dose of 300 mg (2 syringes) may be used in the treatment of arthritic psoriasis.

Adverse effects

Possible adverse effects include cold in the head, diarrhoea, hives and decrease in the amount of white blood cells. Secukinumab may increase susceptibility to infections such as fungal skin infections 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. The risk of tuberculosis must be investigated before the onset of treatment.

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

The use of secukinumab is not recommended during pregnancy or breastfeeding. It is recommended that the use of the drug is stopped 20 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

Secukinumab 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