ECULIZUMAB



Answers to questions you may have about eculizumab

www.Myasthenia.org

What is eculizumab?

Eculizumab is a medication that suppresses the immune system. Sometimes, it is prescribed for individuals with autoimmune myasthenia gravis (MG). It is manufactured as a solution for intravenous infusion under the brand name Soliris®.

Why am I being treated with eculizumab?

Eculizumab is prescribed for some individuals with refractory, generalized MG associated with acetylcholine receptor antibodies (AChR). Refractory refers to people who have significant MG symptoms despite aggressive treatment with other medications that suppress the immune system.

How does eculizumab work?

Eculizumab blocks one mechanism used by the immune system to destroy foreign invaders such as bacteria and viruses. In autoimmune MG, this portion of the immune system also damages the muscle endplate region and causes weakness.

How soon should I see a response?

Individuals who respond to eculizumab often see improvement in the first one to two months. However, it may take up to 12 weeks for some people with MG to see improvement. Unless another MG treatment is used, or your MG goes into remission, the eculizumab infusions must be continued indefinitely to sustain the improvement.

How is eculizumab given?

series of intravenous infusions. The first five doses are given weekly, and subsequent doses are given every two weeks. In adults. the infusions are performed in a little more than ½ hour.

What are the risks associated with eculizumab?

Eculizumab lowers the ability of the immune system to fight certain infections, especially meningococcal infections that cause life threatening sepsis and meningitis. Patients must therefore be vaccinated against the meningococcus bacteria a minimum of two weeks before starting eculizumab. They must also receive periodic booster vaccinations to maximize their immunity to meningococcus and similar bacteria. The available meningococcal vaccines help protect against infections involving many, but not all types of meningococcal bacteria. It is important to realize that vaccinations reduce but do not eliminate the possibility of meningococcal infection, especially in patients taking other immunosuppressive medications.

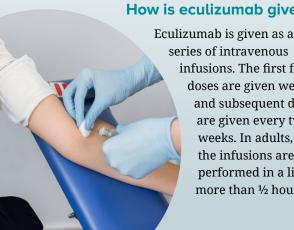
When should I seek medical care for possible meningococcal

infection?

Call your doctor or seek emergency medical care immediately for signs and symptoms of a meningococcal infection including:



- · Headache with nausea or vomiting
- Headache and a fever
- Headache with a stiff neck or stiff back
- Fever
- Fever and a rash
- Confusion
- Muscle aches with flu-like symptoms
- Eyes sensitive to light



What are other concerns associated with eculizumab?

Eculizumab is
expensive, which
can present a
major issue in
accessing the
treatment. It
is important to
discuss the cost of
this medication with
your health insurance
provider and infusion
provider to prevent financial
difficulties.

Because of the risks related to eculizumab, prescribing physicians must be enrolled in the Soliris® Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) program in order to educate patients about the risk of meningococcal infection and to ensure that patients are properly vaccinated.

Your Notes

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Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America

Our Vision: A World Without MG

Our Mission: Create Connections. Enhance Lives. Improve Care, Cure MG

This publication is intended to provide general information to be used solely for educational purposes. It does not address individual patient needs and should not be used as a basis for decision making concerning diagnosis, care, or treatment of any condition. Instead, such decisions should be based on the advice of a physician or health care professional who is directly familiar with the patient. Any reference to a particular product, source, or use does not constitute an endorsement. MGFA, its agents, employees, directors, its Medical Advisory Council or its members assume no responsibility for any damage or liability resulting from the use of such information.

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Approved by the MGFA Medical Advisory Council

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