

VANCOUVER HOSPITAL & HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE
CSU Pharmaceutical Sciences
DRUG DATA SHEET for Non-formulary Medication

DRUG NAME

Infliximab

ALTERNATE NAME

Remicade®

MANUFACTURER

Centocor/Schering

STRENGTH

100mg, 250 mg vials

DOSAGE FORM

injection

INDICATIONS

- a chimeric human-murine monoclonal antibody that binds to tumour necrosis factor-alpha (TNF α), which is considered a key inflammatory mediator. Infliximab blocks TNF α , thereby, reducing the inflammatory state in patients with rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease and Ulcerative Colitis
- treatment of patients with active Crohn's disease including those with draining fistulas, and Ulcerative colitis who do not respond to conventional treatment.

DOSAGE :

- for rheumatoid arthritis, 3mg/kg iv infusion at week 0, 2 and 6, and every 8 weeks thereafter in conjunction with methotrexate
- for moderate to severe Crohn's disease, 5mg/kg iv infusion x 1 dose
- for Crohn's disease patients with draining fistulas, 5mg/kg iv infusion at week 0, 2 and 6
- for patients with active ulcerative colitis: infliximab 5mg/kg iv infusion

ADMINISTRATION:

- Monitor vital signs prior to, every 30 min during, and every 30min for 1hr after the infusion
- For mild reactions (no respiratory or vascular instability) may slow infusion to 10ml/hr and give pre-medication
- Begin infusion within 3hrs of its preparation and infuse dose **over a minimum of 2 hours** via a dedicated line.
- Administer using a low protein-binding filter set of 1.2micron size or smaller (Note: all 1.2 and 0.2micron filters in Alaris tubing sets are low protein-binding).
- Not compatible with other drug

KNOWN SIDE EFFECTS*

- infusion-related reactions include headache, nausea, fever or chills, pruritus, chest tightness, dyspnea, hypertension and hypotension, edema/weight gain
- most commonly dizziness, vomiting, abdominal pain, fatigue, myalgia, back pain, rash and lupus-like syndrome
- infections have been reported and include upper respiratory tract infections, urinary tract infections, and pharyngitis

PREPARATION:

- each 100mg vial is reconstituted with 10mL SWFI. Gently swirl the solution; do not shake. Foaming of the solution on reconstitution is not unusual. Use immediately after reconstitution.
- dilute dose in 250mL NS; the infusion concentration can range between 0.4-4mg/mL. The diluted solution is stable x 24hrs when refrigerated.
- keep drug refrigerated

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

- do not administer to patients with known hypersensitivity to any murine proteins
- human antichimeric antibodies (HACA) have been observed after treatment with infliximab

***REPORT ANY ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS TO THE PHARMACY**

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