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

DRUG NAME
infliximab

ALTERNATE NAME
REMICADE®

MANUFACTURER
Janssen

STRENGTH
100mg vials

DOSAGE FORM
injection

INDICATIONS

- a chimeric human-murine monoclonal antibody that binds to tumour necrosis factor-alpha (TNFα), which is considered a key inflammatory mediator. Infliximab blocks TNFα, 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, 3 mg/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: 5 mg/kg IV infusion x 1 dose
- for Crohn's disease patients with draining fistulas: 5 mg/kg IV infusion at week 0, 2 and 6
- for patients with active ulcerative colitis: infliximab 5 mg/kg IV infusion

ADMINISTRATION:

- Monitor vital signs prior to, every 30 min during and every 30 min for 1hr after the infusion
- For mild reactions (no respiratory or vascular instability) may slow infusion to 10 mL/hr and give pre-medication
- Begin infusion within 3 hrs 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 (i.e. Use Alaris tubing with 1.2 or 0.2 micron filters)
- The infusion rate must be controlled by an automated infusion control device
- Not compatible with other drugs

KNOWN SIDE EFFECTS:*

- infusion- and allergic-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
- jaundice, hepatitis, malignancies, lymphoproliferative disease, congestive heart failure
- infections have been reported and include upper respiratory tract infections, urinary tract infections, and pharyngitis

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PREPRARATION:

- each 100 mg vial is reconstituted with 10 mL SWFI. Gently swirl the solution; do not shake. Foaming of the solution on reconstitution is not unusual. Use immediately after reconstitution.
- dilute dose in 250 mL sodium chloride 0.9% (NS); the infusion concentration can range between 0.4 to 4 mg/mL. The diluted solution is stable for 24 hrs when refrigerated.
- keep drug refrigerated

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS:

- DO NOT interchange the biosimilar REMICADE brand of infliximab with the INFLECTRA brand.
- Human antichimeric antibodies (HACA) have been observed after treatment with infliximab.
- Contraindicated in those with known hypersensitivity to any murine proteins, or hypersensitivity to infliximab.
- Contraindicated in those with severe infections (sepsis, abscesses, tuberculosis, opportunistic infections).
- Contraindicated in those with moderate or severe (NYHA Class III/IV) congestive heart failure.

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