VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL
PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES
NON-FORMULARY DRUG DATA SHEET

DRUG NAME
tocilizumab

ALTERNATE NAME
Actemra®

MANUFACTURER
Hoffman La-Roche

STRENGTH
80 mg, 200 mg, 400 mg (concentration: 20 mg/mL)

DOSAGE FORM
vial

INDICATIONS
- Treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA)
- Treatment of COVID-19 for patients in the Intensive Care Unit (Off-label indication)

DOSAGE
- **For RA:** In combination with DMARDs or as monotherapy for RA: 4 mg/kg every 4 weeks. Increase to 8 mg/kg based on clinical response
- **For COVID-19**: 8 mg/kg (Max: 800 mg) IV x 1 dose

PREPARATION
- Store vials in the refrigerator (Do not freeze).Vials must be protected from light and not shaken
- Dilute in 100 mL NS ONLY
- First withdraw a volume from the NS bag equal to the volume of drug that is needed (Final total volume = 100 mL total)
- Gently invert bag to mix (Do NOT shake)
- Stable for 24 hours when stored refrigerated or at room temperature

ADMINISTRATION
- Infuse over 10 mL/h x 15 minutes, then at 130 mL/h for the remainder of the infusion - Minimum infusion time: 60 minutes (DO NOT administer by IV push or IV bolus)
- Allow diluted solution to reach room temperature prior to administration
- Do not shake bag. Invert gently to mix
- Do not infuse concomitantly in the same line with other drugs

KNOWN SIDE EFFECTS*
- Serious infections including sepsis, tuberculosis, invasive fungal and other opportunistic infections have been observed with the use of biologic agents, including Actemra®. Hospitalization or fatal outcomes associated with infections have been reported. Most patients who developed infections were taking concomitant immunosuppressants
- Hypersensitivity reactions including anaphylaxis
- Pneumonia, cellulitis, headache, nasopharyngitis, urinary tract infection, nausea, diarrhea, abdominal pain, dyspepsia, sinusitis, bronchitis, rash, back pain, dizziness, gastrointestinal perforations, neutropenia, reduction in platelet counts, elevated hepatic enzymes, elevated lipid parameters, hypertension

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS
- Should not be administered to patients with known hypersensitivity to tocilizumab or any of its components
- Before starting treatment, all patients should be evaluated for both active and latent tuberculosis
- Treatment should not be initiated in patients with active infections including chronic and localized infections
- Patients should be screened for viral hepatitis prior to starting treatment
- Use with caution in patients at increased risk for gastrointestinal perforation
- Not recommended in patients with platelet counts <50
- Live and live-attenuated vaccines should not be given concurrently
- Use with caution in patients with active hepatic disease or hepatic impairment
- Actemra® is a marketed drug. For more complete information please refer to the product monograph

***REPORT ANY ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS TO PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES**
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