Ihotaudit

Patient instructions, Dupilumab

Trade name: Dupixent®

Indications and mode of action

Dupilumab is a biological medicine that is used to treat difficult atopic eczema. It is injected under the skin and it affects the disease's main mediators of inflammation. Dupilumab is also used as an additional medicine to treat asthma.

Dosage

Dupilumab will be administered every two weeks. The starting dose is 600 mg, that is two syringes or two prefilled pens. In future, the dose will usually be 300 mg, that is one syringe or one prefilled pen every two weeks. Prefilled pens are not prescribed to children under the age of 12.

Adverse effects

The most common adverse effects include reactions on the injection site, conjunctivitis or inflammation of the eye lid, cold sores, and headache. Contact the unit responsible for your care if you experience these adverse effects regularly. Studies have shown a very rare adverse effect that includes symptoms of a serum sickness or difficult hypersensitivity or allergy. If you experience difficult symptoms of an allergy, such as difficulty to breathe or swelling in the face, you must immediately seek treatment and stop taking dupilumab. Dupilumab may make you more prone to parasites. Please inform the unit responsible for your care if you have travelled abroad during the year prior to starting the medication, or if you experience diarrhea or other gastrointestinal symptoms regularly.

Interactions with other medications

Dupilumab is not known to interact with other medicines.

Vaccinations

You should keep your vaccines up to date according to the national vaccination program.

You should not take live or attenuated vaccines during dupilumab therapy. These include vaccines for MPR, yellow fever, and chicken pox. Their clinical safety and effect have not been studied. It is best to have these vaccines taken before starting dupilumab.

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Dupilumab is not recommended while pregnant or breastfeeding because there is not enough knowledge on the safety of use during pregnancy or breastfeeding. Dupilumab is usually stopped at least 10 weeks before trying to conceive.

Follow-ups

Dupilumab does not require regular follow-ups with laboratory testing. Some laboratory tests will be taken when planning the therapy. The tests will be taken at a HUSLAB laboratory. You can eat and drink as usual before the blood tests.

Before the medication will begin and at check-up appointments, you will need to fill in questionnaires on symptoms related to atopic eczema, their intensity, and how they affect your quality of life. The atopic eczema will also be monitored with photographs. You should get your teeth checked by a dentist regularly during dupilumab therapy.

Starting the treatment

When dupilumab is planned for you, your physician will write you a Medical Certificate B to apply for basic reimbursement from Kela. It is usually sent directly to Kela, or alternatively, to your home address and then you need to deliver it to Kela yourself. If the basic reimbursement is granted for you, you pay the costs of the medicine until you reach the annual maximum limit on out-of-pocket medicine costs, which is about 600 euros a year.

Kela will notify you when the reimbursement has been granted for you. Then, you need to contact the unit responsible for your care to get an electronic prescription for dupilumab. We will then also book you an appointment with a nurse to teach you how to inject the medicine. You need to bring the medicine with you to this appointment.

At the injection appointment, we will book you a phone call with a physician to take place about a month after starting the therapy, and a check-up appointment to take place about four months after starting the therapy.

Patient instruction |Approved: 3.5.2022