

LEUKOTRIENE RECEPTOR ANTAGONISTS FOR VIRAL WHEEZE

Around a third of children experience at least one episode of wheeze before the age of five years. Evidence suggests that in children of pre-school age, recurrent wheezing that occurs exclusively in association with viral infection of the respiratory tract may represent a separate entity from atopic asthma. This phenomenon is known as episodic viral wheezing (EVW).

Cochrane carried out a systematic review to evaluate the available evidence for the efficacy of maintenance (regular as preventive treatment) and intermittent (during symptomatic episodes) leukotriene receptor antagonists (LTRAs) in the management of children aged between one and six years seemingly presenting with EVW.

The authors concluded that acute episodes of EVW in pre-school children are common, are associated with significant morbidity, and place a substantial burden on healthcare resources and society as a whole. Despite well designed trials, **there is little available evidence of significant clinical benefit from either maintenance or intermittent LTRA therapy compared to placebo in pre-school children with EVW. Therefore until further data are available, LTRA should be used with caution in individual children with EVW.** When used, a therapeutic trial is suggested during which efficacy should be carefully monitored.



Action for GPs

- LTRA should be used with caution in individual children with EVW.
- When used, a therapeutic trial is suggested during which efficacy should be carefully monitored.

NEW NICE GUIDANCE

No new service notifications issued in Northern Ireland this month.

MANAGED ENTRY DECISIONS

The following medicines were considered in December as part of the Northern Ireland Managed Entry process.

For details of the outcomes please refer to the Managed Entry section of the Northern Ireland Formulary website: <http://niformulary.hscni.net/ManagedEntry/MEDecisions/Pages/default.aspx>

Primary and Secondary Care

- Ciclosporin (Ikervis[®])
- Tiotropium/olodaterol inhalation solution (Spiolto[®] Respimat[®])
- Triamcinolone hexacetonide 20mg/ml suspension

Secondary Care

- Aflibercept (Eylea[®])
- Apremilast (Otezla[®])
- Adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab, certolizumab pegol, golimumab, tocilizumab and abatacept
- Adalimumab, etanercept infliximab and golimumab
- Pembrolizumab (Keytruda[®])

This newsletter has been produced for GPs and Pharmacists by the Regional Pharmacy and Medicines Management Team. If you have any queries or require further information on the contents of this newsletter, please contact one of the Medicines Management pharmacists in your local HSCB office.

Belfast Office: 028 9536 3926
South Eastern Office: 028 9147 5133
Southern Office: 028 9536 2009
Northern Office: 028 9536 2835
Western Office: 028 9536 1008

References

- 1) NICE. Patient decision aid atrial fibrillation.
- 2) Keele university. <http://www.anticoagulation-dst.co.uk/>
- 3) Health decision™ Patient decision aids <https://healthdecision.org/tool.html#/tool/afib>
- 4) Brodrie M et al. Leukotriene receptor antagonists as maintenance and intermittent therapy for episodic viral wheeze in children. Cochrane database of Sys Rev 2015 DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD008202.pub2

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