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INFORMATION ON DUPILUMAB (DUPIXENT)

What is Dupilumab (Dupixent)?

- This is an injectable treatment rather than a pill or cream.
- It is a monoclonal antibody that blocks IL-4 and IL-13 in the body
- It is approved for children 6 and over who have atopic dermatitis (eczema). It is also approved for some types of asthma (eosinophilic type and steroid dependent types) and some types of chronic rhinosinusitis with polyps
- It is sometimes used “off label” for treating alopecia areata

What is the dose of Dupilumab (Dupixent)?

- The dose depends on the age of the patient
- For adults and adolescents over 60 kg, the dose is 600 mg to start and then 300 mg every other week; For children 6 and over: 30- 60 kg, the dose is 400 mg to start and then 200 mg every other week. For children 6 and over, 15- 30 kg, the dose is 600 mg to start and then 300 mg every month.

Will I administer Dupilumab (Dupixent) myself ?

- Yes, dupilumab can be administered by patients once they are taught exactly how do perform the injections by a nurse. The injections are not difficult to do but teaching is required before patients attempt this themselves.
- The thigh or abdomen are typically the sites of injections

Can Dupilumab (Dupixent) be used with other hair loss treatments?

- Not all treatment that we use for alopecia areata can be used with Dupilumab.
- However, topical steroids and steroid injections are permitted.

Who should NOT use Dupilumab (Dupixent)?

- Children under 6
- Individuals who are allergic to any of the ingredients in Dupilumab Each pre-filled syringe delivers 300 mg dupilumab in 2 mL which also contains L-arginine hydrochloride (10.5 mg), L- histidine (6.2 mg), polysorbate 80 (4 mg), sodium acetate (2 mg), sucrose (100 mg), and water for injection, pH 5.9.
- Women who are pregnant or women who are breastfeeding
- Some types of asthma
- Patients with parasitic infections in the bowel
- Patients with eye problems
- Patients who are planning to get a vaccine should check with their doctors about the specific vaccine. Live vaccines are to be avoided.

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What are the possible side effects of Dupilumab (Dupixent)?

The most common side effects include:

- 1) Injection site reactions
- 2) Dry eyes, red eyes and itchy eyes (keratitis and conjunctivitis)
- 3) Eyelid itching, redness and swelling
- 4) Cold sores (herpes)

Medical attention should be sought if side effects occur. Allergic reactions are also possible with dupilumab but fortunately are not common.

Any patient with signs of an allergic reaction like fever, itching, feeling ill, swollen nodes, hives, rash, joint pain needs to seek medical attention in a local emergency room. Hypersensitivity reactions, including generalized urticaria and serum sickness or serum sickness- like reactions, were reported in less than 1% of subjects who received DUPIXENT in clinical trials.

How should Dupilumab (Dupixent) be stored?

- It is stored in the refrigerator and protected from light
- It is brought out of the refrigerator and into room temperature 45 minutes before using.
- It is okay if a given syringe sits at room temperature for 2 weeks, but it should not be longer than this.

What tests will be needed before taking Dupilumab (Dupixent)?

Baseline blood tests are not needed for most patients. For some patients, screening for baseline hepatitis B, C and HIV will be advised.

What tests will be needed after starting the Dupilumab (Dupixent)?

Blood tests are not needed after starting.

