Vedolizumab

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CANADIAN CHILDREN INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE NETWORK
A CH.I.L.D. Foundation Initiative

What this medication is used for

Widely used for children with Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.

Health Canada

Health Canada also approved for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis in adults. Currently being studied for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis in children

How this medication works

Vedolizumab works by stopping white blood cells from entering the lining of the gut which drives inflammation.

How to use this medication

The first three doses are usually given intravenously at weeks 0, 2 and 6.

-Subsequent doses may be given intravenously every 4-8 weeks. Often, individuals may require more frequent doses.

-Subcutaneous doses may be an option after the initial loading doses.

-Although some individuals receive benefit quite quickly, it can take a little longer in others. Keep taking your medication.

Where treatment is administered

-Intravenous doses will be administered at a hospital or infusion centre.

- For subcutaneous injections: after initial teaching, most doses are administered at home. A patient support program will help facilitate teaching.

Special tests done prior to starting

Test to screen for infections including tuberculosis and immunity to various viruses.

How long to use this medication

This medication will be used to get your IBD under control and keep it under control long-term.

Monitoring during treatment

Regular blood tests, stool tests, endoscopy and/or other imaging will be done to monitor for response and side-effects to medication.

Side Effects

-Infusion-related reactions such as shortness of breath, fever, rash, changes in blood pressure or heart rate. Medications may be given to treat and/or prevent these side-effects.

-Medications that affect the immune system may be associated with developing infections.

-Headaches and joint pain can occur.

-Nasal congestion/upper respiratory tract infection.

When I should call my doctor

Please call if:
-You want to or have already stopped the medicine
-If you are concerned about any side effects

Other reasons to call your doctor:
-If you have a fever or think you have an infection

Vaccines

✗ Live vaccines - Not safe

✓ Inactivated vaccines - Safe

PLEASE NOTE: This content is for educational purposes only and does not replace professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment.

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