Tocilizumab

COVID-19 Therapy

OTHER NAMES	CLASSIFICATION	ALERTS
Actemra	Interleukin 6 Receptor Monoclonal Antibody	

PREPARATION and ADMINISTRATION

Reconstitution
Not applicable

Mix bag by gently inverting to avoid foaming; do not shake.
Allow diluted tocilizumab to reach room temperature before administration.

IV Direct	Intermittent Infusion	Continuous Infusion
Not applicable	**IV Bag (large volume pump)**	**IV Bag (large volume pump)**
	Standard preparation Diluent: NS Remove volume from IV bag equal to the volume of drug being added Up to 800 mg/100 mL total over 1 h	Not applicable
	Syringe (syringe pump)	**Syringe (syringe pump)**
	Not applicable	Not applicable
Requirements and Monitoring		
Not applicable	None	Not applicable

INDICATIONS

- Treatment of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in hospitalized patients with early severe disease enrolled in a pragmatic research study (e.g., CO-VIC).

ADVERSE EFFECTS

- Hypertension.
- Nausea, diarrhea, headache.
- Hepatotoxicity.
- Infusion-related reactions (e.g., rash, urticaria, pruritus, headache, nausea, hypotension/hypertension, dizziness). May occur up to 24 h after infusion.
- Neutropenia, thrombocytopenia.
- Serious infections such as tuberculosis, invasive fungal or other opportunistic infections; upper respiratory infections.
- Hypersensitivity, anaphylaxis.
- Bowel perforation.

DOSAGE

- 8 mg/kg to maximum of 800 mg IV as a single dose.
- Renal impairment not predicted to impact tocilizumab elimination. No dosage adjustment necessary.
- Not recommended in patients with active hepatic disease or hepatic impairment.
- Use cautiously in patients with neutropenia or thrombocytopenia.

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COMPATIBILITY, STABILITY

- Compatible at Y-site with NS, NaCl 0.45%.
- Prepare intermittent infusions as directed; limited stability data.
- Solution is colourless to pale yellow.
- Vial contains no preservative. Discard unused portion.
- Store vials in refrigerator.
- Protect from light; store vials in original packaging.

DOSAGE FORMS

- 20 mg/mL; 4 mL, 10 mL, 20 mL vials.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Active infection should be ruled out and low risk of latent infection (e.g., tuberculosis) established before initiation of therapy.

LIBRARIES

- None

REFERENCES

Trissel LA. Handbook on injectable drugs. Bethesda (MD): American Society of Health-System Pharmacists; 2017.

Tocilizumab product monograph. Mississauga (ON): Hoffmann-La Roche Limited; Accessed 2021 Feb 11.

The REMAP-CAP Investigators. Interleukin-6 Receptor Antagonists in Critically Ill Patients with Covid-19 - Preliminary report. medRxiv 2021.01.07.21249390. https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.01.07.21249390