

Vedolizumab injections at home

Introduction

You have been having vedolizumab (Entyvio) intravenous (IV) infusions in hospital. This treatment is now available as an injection which you would be able to administer yourself in your own home. This offers you several advantages and you can choose to swap to this treatment, give it a trial or remain on the infusions. To help you make this choice we have provided you with this leaflet.

Are the injections as good as the infusions?

Clinical trials have shown that vedolizumab given as an injection under the skin is as effective as the IV infusions in both Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

How often would I need to give myself the injection?

Every 2 weeks you will need to give yourself the injection and this is either with a pre-filled pen or a syringe device. Each dose is 108mg.

The first dose would be given when your next IV infusion is due and you will be given full training on how to do the injection. The injection is given under the skin in either your tummy or thigh area.

How would I obtain the pens or syringes?

The prescriptions will be sent by our Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) team to a homecare provider called Healthcare at Home (HAH).

The pens or syringes and all other items you will need, including a sharps bin, would be dispensed and delivered to your home every few months by HAH on the Trust's behalf. HAH can deliver to your place of work or to another nominated address. HAH will also ask a nurse to visit your home for up to 2 doses to train you on how to use the pen or syringe. The pens or syringes will need to be kept in a fridge.

Reference No.

GHP11618_10_20

Department

Gastroenterology

Review due

October 2023

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Would there be any other changes to my treatment?

No, you will need to have a blood test every 3 months but all other treatment including follow-up and access to the IBD nurses would remain the same. If you decide to switch please contact the IBD Advice line using the contact details at the end of this leaflet.

What are the advantages of the injection?

Homecare medicines are very convenient as they give you the freedom to manage your treatment at home. You would not need to visit the hospital for IV infusions which may involve taking time off work or paying for parking.

Do the injections have any side effects?

Clinical trials have shown that vedolizumab given as an injection is as safe as receiving it as an IV infusion. However, there is a possibility of injection site reactions (redness or swelling) but these are generally mild. Please contact the IBD Advice line if you have any concerns.

What if I don't want to switch?

If you do not wish to switch to injections, you will be able to continue your treatment with infusions as normal.

Similarly if you change your mind at any point after switching you will be able to discuss going back to infusions. Although this will not be a problem we would encourage you to use the supply of injections you have at home before IV infusions resume.

Contact information

You can contact the IBD Advice line nurses if you have any questions about switching to vedolizumab injections or if you would like more information about Healthcare at Home.

IBD Advice line

Tel: 0300 422 2475

Email: ghn-tr.gastro.nurses@nhs.net

**Patient
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Further information

Please visit the Entyvio website for more information about Vedolizumab injections, including injection training videos.

Entyvio

Website: <http://entyvio.co.uk/>

Content reviewed: October 2020