

ACTIVE LEARNING TEMPLATE: Medication

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MEDICATION Infliximab (IV), Remicade

REVIEW MODULE CHAPTER _____

CATEGORY CLASS Antirheumatic, immunosuppressant agent

PURPOSE OF MEDICATION

Expected Pharmacological Action

Binds to tumor necrosis factor (TNF), inhibiting functional activity of TNF (induction of proinflammatory cytokines, enhanced leukocytic migration, activation of neutrophils/eosinophils). Prevents disease and allows diseased joint to heal. Decreases inflammation.

Therapeutic Use

Tx for psoriatic arthritis (RA), reduces s/sx, induces, and maintains remission in moderate to severe active crohn's disease. Maintains fistula closure in fistulizing crohn's disease. Reduces s/sx of active ankylosing spondylitis.

Complications

Side effects: headache, nausea, fatigue, fever, chills during infusion, pharyngitis, vomiting, pain, dizziness, bronchitis, cough, hypo/hypertension, anxiety, depression, diarrhea.
Adverse reactions: sepsis, hypersensitivity reaction, lupus-like syndrome, severe hepatic reaction, HF.

Medication Administration

Administration: reconstitute each vial with 10mL sterile water injected into vial, swirl vial, allow solution to stand for 5 mins then inject into 250mL bag NS, concentration should be 0.4-4 mg/mL. Administer over at least 2 hours using low protein-binding filter.
Dosage: Crohn's disease: 5mg/kg followed by additional doses at 2 and 6 weeks after first infusion, then q8 weeks thereafter. 10mg/kg are for those who respond less.

Contraindications/Precautions

Contraindications: hypersensitivity, moderate to severe HF, sepsis, severe infection.
Precautions: hematologic abnormalities, hx of COPD, seizures, mild HF, hx of recurrent infections, pt exposed to TB, elderly pts, chronic hepatitis B virus infection.

Nursing Interventions

Monitor urinalysis, erythrocyte sedimentation rate, BP, monitor for infection, monitor daily pattern of bowel activity, and stool consistency. monitor c-reactive protein, frequency of stools, assess for abdominal pain.

Interactions

Drug: anakinra, anti-TNF agents, baricitinib may increase adverse effects. May decrease effect of BCG, vaccines (live).
Herbal: echinacea may decrease effect.
Food: none
Lab values: may increase serum alkaline phosphatase, ALT, AST, bilirubin.

Client Education

Report persistent fever, cough, abdominal pain, swelling of ankles/feet. Tx may depress immune system, report signs of infection, do not receive live vaccines, expect frequent TB tests, report travel plans to possible endemic areas.

Evaluation of Medication Effectiveness

Decreases inflammation or s/sx of inflammation. No s/sx of Crohn's disease.