

ACTIVE LEARNING TEMPLATE: *Medication*

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MEDICATION Infliximab REVIEW MODULE CHAPTER _____

CATEGORY CLASS Tumor necrosis factor-alpha inhibitor

PURPOSE OF MEDICATION

Expected Pharmacological Action

Neutralizes and prevents the activity of tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF-alpha), resulting in anti-inflammatory and antiproliferative activity.

Therapeutic Use

Decreased signs and symptoms and induction and maintenance of clinical remission in Crohn's disease. Reduction in number of fistulas and maintenance of closure of fistulae

Complications

Arrhythmias, HF, MI
abdominal pain, N/V, fatigue, HA, URTI, fever, infusion reactions, constipation, erythema, constipation, diarrhea

Medication Administration

IV: 5 mg/kg initially; then repeat at 2 & 6 wk after initial infusion; then maintenance dose of 5 mg/kg q8 wk;

Contraindications/Precautions

Moderate to severe HF
Caution: hx of chronic infection, TB, COPD, hep B

Nursing Interventions

monitor for signs n symptoms of systemic fever, malaise, weight loss
Monitor CBC w auto diff periodically, may cause leukopenia, thrombocytopenia,)

Interactions

Drug: anakinra, abatacept, azathioprine, methotrexate, live virus vaccines may inc risk of infection

Client Education

Notify HCP for adverse reactions such as rash, fever, myalgia
May cause dizziness, avoid activities that require alertness
Advise to notify HCP for symptoms of fungal infection

Evaluation of Medication Effectiveness

decreased signs n symptoms of crohns and decrease in number of draining fistulas.
Mucosal healing

Compatibility

Incompatible with polyvinyl chloride Equipment

Do not administer concurrently in the same line with any other agents.

Amount

0.4 to 4 mg/mL. Mix gently. Infusion should begin within 3 hr (4 hr for Renflexis) of preparation.

Rate of Administration

Administer over at least 2 hrs

Diluent

Withdraw volume of total infliximab dose from infusion container containing 250 mL with 0.9% NaCl. Slowly add total dose of infliximab. Do not dilute with other solutions

Site, supplies, storage, stability

Prepare in glass infusion bottle or polypropylene or polyolefin bags. Do not reuse or store any portion of infusion solution. Unopened vials are stable for 6 mo at room temperature; once removed from refrigerator, cannot be returned to the refrigerator. Diluted solution is stable for 4 hr at room temperature, 34 days if refrigerated, and 6 hr at room temperature when removed from refrigerator.