

Rheumatology Shared Care Guidelines

Myocrisin (Injectable Gold)

Information sheet for GPs

Myocrisin is the injectable (IM) form of gold. It can induce a remission or partial remission in patients with inflammatory arthritis. Clinical improvement is seen gradually over several months. NSAID and simple analgesics should be continued but the doses can be reduced once gold therapy is established.

Dose Regimen

- 10 mg test dose followed by 50 mg once weekly by intramuscular injection
- After significant response with 50 mg weekly give 50 mg monthly or 50 mg alternate weeks for 3 months then 3 weekly for 3 months then monthly thereafter.
- If after a total dose of 1 gram has been given, there has been no response, treatment should be stopped.

Monitoring

- FBC, U&E, LFT, urinalysis before starting treatment
- FBC at the time of each injection. The results of the FBC need not be available before the injection is given but must be available before the next injection i.e. it is permissible to work one FBC in arrears.
- Urinalysis **must** be carried out immediately **before each injection** is given.
- Withhold injection if 1+ or more protein in current urine sample
- Ask patient about rash or oral ulceration at each visit
- Enter results in patient held record when shared care in place.

Side Effects

- skin rash
- abnormal bruising/sore throat
- oral ulceration
- WBC $<4.0 \times 10^9/l$
- neutrophils $<2.0 \times 10^9/l$
- platelets $<150 \times 10^9/l$
- proteinuria 1+ or more

Action

If mild give emollient cream, steroids except on face.
If severe withdraw treatment after discussion with rheumatologist
Withhold until FBC result available
Withhold and d/w rheumatologist
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Withhold and d/w rheumatologist
Withhold injection. Investigate: MSU for infection, 24 hour urine collection for protein. D/w rheumatologist

Ask about side effects at every consultation

Please note that in addition to absolute values for haematological indices a rapid fall or consistent downward trend in any values should prompt caution and extra vigilance

Contraindication

- This drug should generally not be used during pregnancy or breastfeeding. Discuss management with the rheumatologist.

References

SPC (Myocrisin, JHC Healthcare Ltd), March 1997
BSR Guidelines, July 2000
BNF 41, March 2001

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Please consult the manufacturers Data Sheet or Summary of Product Characteristics for further information.

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